

Joe Chemo abducted

Where's Joe Chemo? Health services doesn't care, as long as he's out and about.

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Quæcumque Vera

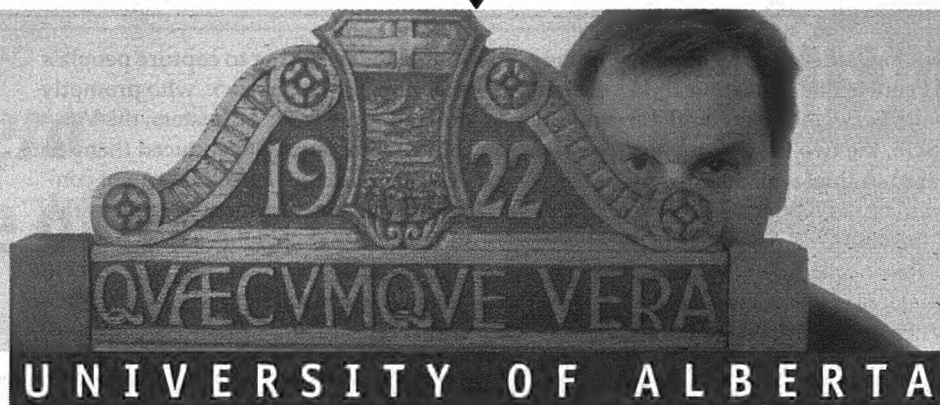
It's Latin, it's stirring, and it's a popular U of A quip when proving a point. But what does our motto mean and does it affect the way we do business?

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Imperial Legacy

The nephew of China's last emperor brings Ming and Qing dynasty art traditions.

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folio

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Who's killing our children?

Ed psych researcher says courts, police and social agencies offer children with disabilities less protection

By Michael Robb

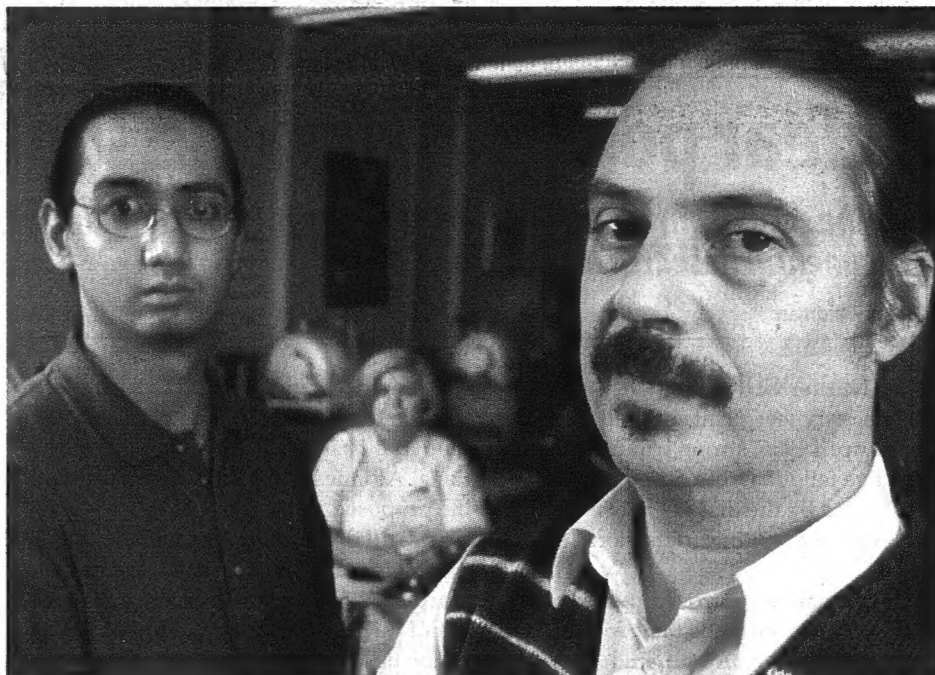
Killing children with disabilities remains fairly common in contemporary society, says Dr. Richard Sobsey, director of the U of A Developmental Disabilities Centre. Society also seems to find it more acceptable than killing other children, he says.

Addressing the recent Canadian Childhood Conference 1997, October 31, Sobsey said there are good reasons to believe child protection services, law enforcement agencies and the courts fail to protect the lives of children with disabilities with the same vigor as the lives of others.

"It results, in part, because people in those organizations lack training and because of organizational limitations," he says. "For example, social workers for child protection services and services to children with disabilities may work with the same family, but the child protection workers have little training or knowledge related to the unique needs of children with disabilities. And the disabilities workers have no authority to apprehend a child they know is in danger."

Sobsey's research has revealed another disturbing trend: The relative social acceptability of killing children with disabilities appears to increase the incidence of such killings. "Cases often occur in clusters when new cases occur amidst supportive publicity for previous cases."

So who's killing these children? Sobsey and PhD student Richard Lucardie say there are two primary groups: care providers and parents. Care providers sometimes kill children with disabilities without consulting the victim's family. Passive euthanasia is more common than active euthanasia. An ex-



Educational psychology professor Richard Sobsey, right, and PhD student Richard Lucardie, left

Tina Chang

ample could be health-care workers withholding medical care. These are rarely treated as crimes, says Sobsey. Active euthanasia is less common and tends to be more covert.

Sobsey says it's difficult to get a handle on the numbers. Over about a decade, North American newspapers reported on roughly 100 deaths of disabled children. Since the highly publicized case of Saskatchewan farmer Robert Latimer, about six cases have come to light.

There have been two cases of medical murder of babies recently reported at Toronto's Sick Children's Hospital. A

Texas Hospital reported the deaths of 50 children over a number of years in the intensive care unit.

Medical murder seems to be most common and cases often go undetected or are detected only after very large numbers of victims are killed, as in the case of the babies in the Texas hospital.

"Parents who say they kill their children to spare them from abuse or other difficulties rarely receive sympathy and are often disbelieved. Those who say they wished to spare their children from a life with a disability typically receive considerable sympathy," says Sobsey. Latimer,

who admits to killing his daughter Tracy, who had cerebral palsy, has certainly elicited sympathy, although Sobsey says the press and the public seem more circumspect about the circumstances today, than during Latimer's first trial.

Three types of parents kill their children with disabilities: abusive, stressed and "compassionate" parents. Robert Latimer would be among the last category, says Sobsey. ■

Killing infants and children with disabilities: a historical perspective:

- The Spartans exposed frail infants to the elements or threw them off Mount Teygetus. A historical marker at the site tells visitors the children were killed for "the good of the development of the human race."
- The Athenians left unwanted infants in jars in temples; they could be rescued by anyone who happened by who wished to adopt them; however, girls and infants with disabilities were rarely rescued
- In pre-Christian Europe, children with deformities and developmental disabilities were commonly considered changelings or monsters; they were considered to be the offspring of elves, fairies or leprechauns who had replaced the real offspring of human parents
- Parents of an infant known as Baby Knauer wrote Hitler in 1938/39 asking him to allow them to kill the baby. Hitler's physician reviewed the case and allowed the infant to be killed, setting in motion the Nazi euthanasia programs
- Today, two-thirds of all murdered children are killed by their parents

»» quick »» facts

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New BA honors degree offered in native studies

By Michael Robb

Native studies at the University of Alberta just got a bit stronger.

At General Faculties Council last week, members approved a proposal submitted by the School of Native Studies for the establishment of a new degree program, a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies (Honors).

The new honors program will take effect in 1998/99.

"This will allow students who want to study native issues in depth and who may want to go on to do graduate work to go on," says Richard Price, acting director of the School of Native Studies. The school expects about 10 students will want to enroll in the degree program initially. About 180 students are now enrolled in the general program.

Students in the school originally called for the establishment of a master's program, Price says, but it was felt the honors program would be the next logical step. In the longer term, the school hopes to be able to offer students a master's program. In the short term, the honors program is expected to give top students another academic option.

The field of native studies, he noted, is taking on new directions, for example, in the area of international and comparative indigenous peoples studies. "The new honors program will have the added advantage of encouraging our faculty to stay abreast of these developments, given that this is a likely area of more in-depth work by honors students." ■

Joe Chemo abducted

But peer health educators are just happy he's being noticed

By Michael Robb

Not long after they were posted in the Peer Health Education and University Health Services offices on the second floor of SUB, the two Joe Chemo posters disappeared. A thief walked into both offices—and in broad daylight—took the posters off the walls.

Peer health education program director Judy Hancock was amused. Yes, amused. "When you're in peer health education,

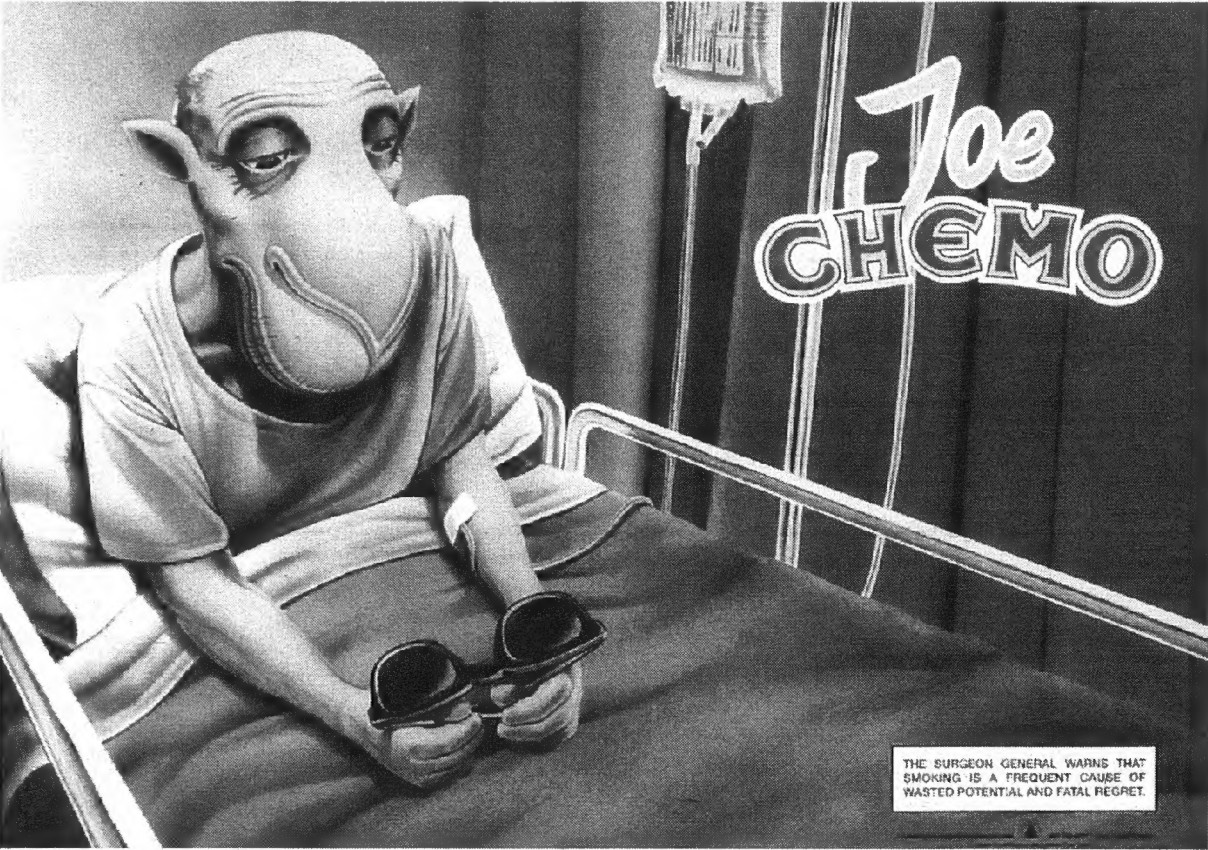
you're always trying to capture people's attention," says Hancock, who promptly ordered more from Adbusters, the Vancouver company that produced them. Satire is an incredibly effective way of conveying messages, she says—apparently, someone else thought so too.

The poster is powerful. It depicts "Joe Chemo" in a hospital bed connected to an intravenous tube. The hairless camel—

presumably as a consequence of chemotherapy—is staring wistfully at his cool sunglasses. In the corner of the poster, the caption resembling a cigarette package warning label reads: "The surgeon general warns that smoking is a frequent cause of wasted potential and fatal regret."

The poster is a satirical response by the advertising company to the Joe Camel cigarette character. The company has produced others. Some have appeared as magazine advertisements, others have ended up on billboards.

Hancock, who founded the Misericordia Hospital's smoking cessation program, says the poster is an unorthodox way of conveying a strong message. Oh, and by the way, if you want one, you can purchase them from University Health Services. They're only \$5. They make great Christmas gifts for teachers, or simply to hang in residence. ■



folio

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
400 ATHABASCA HALL
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA,
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6G 2E8

Tony Myers: Director, Office of Public Affairs
LEE ELLIOTT: Managing Editor
MICHAEL ROBB: Assistant Editor
CONTRIBUTORS:
Peter Cahill, Lucianna Ciccocioppo,
Sandra Halme, Deborah Johnston,
Christopher Levan, Kathleen Thurber,
Leslie Vermeer, Debby Waldman
GRAPHIC DESIGN:
Ray Au, Dennis Weber,
Susan Hunter, Marion McFall

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Inquiries, comments and letters should be directed to Lee Elliott, Managing Editor, 492-0441
lee.elliott@ualberta.ca Fax: 492-2997

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...it makes sense

Nuclear power in Ukraine spells disaster

This is the second environmental lecture in an interdisciplinary series sponsored by the Transalta Environmental Research and Studies Centre

By Debby Waldman

When Reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant suffered a power surge in April 1986, strong winds carried radioactive fallout across Europe. The area most affected by the disaster was Belarus, a former Soviet republic to the north of Ukraine.

Contamination destroyed the country's export market, thousands of people had to be evacuated, and many suffered incurable skin diseases, respiratory illnesses, heart attacks, psychosomatic illnesses, and aggressive forms of cancer that were once almost unheard of in the region.

Yet in both Belarus and Ukraine, governments are committed to expanding nuclear power, says Dr. David Marples of the Department of History and Classics.

In his lecture, "The Environmental and Health Impact of the Chernobyl Disaster in the Former Soviet Union," delivered as part of the Environmental Seminar Series, Marples called nuclear power in Ukraine "a recipe for disaster."

Presumably Belarus would also fit that description, except the country doesn't have a nuclear power plant.

Yet. Almost bankrupt and experiencing the sort of inflation that drives up the price of bread 300 per cent over two years, the country can't afford one. But that hasn't stopped officials there from consulting

with engineers in Russia, France, and even Canada in efforts to build a plant—even though it has yet to contact the International Atomic Energy Commission about the proposed project.

"I still don't understand where the money is going to come from," said Marples, who began researching the subject of nuclear power in the former Soviet Union as a graduate student in the early 1980s, while based in Munich.

Since the Chernobyl fire, he has visited the region numerous times, chronicling the aftermath of what is considered the worst nuclear disaster in history.

Both Ukraine and Belarus are heavy energy users, but neither actually needs nuclear power, says Marples. Belarus doesn't have a high level of industry, and Ukraine could conceiv-

ably shut down its plants if it cut its energy levels to that of the rest of western Europe.

The Chernobyl plant was to be closed by the year 2000, but the Ukrainian government appears not to be holding to that promise. Reactor No. 2, which was closed after a fire in 1991, is scheduled to be brought back into operation within the next three years, and while Reactor No. 1 was taken out of action in November 1996, there's no indication that the shut-down was permanent.

There's concern among the international community that Ukrainian power plants aren't living up to safety standards. One problem: the country's safety inspectors are said to be demoralized, in part because they are paid so erratically. According to Marples, the United States nuclear power industry offered to pick up their salaries—an estimated \$50 a month—just to ensure they could and would do their jobs.

Belarus' problems stem less from economics than from a president Marples describes as a dictator. In addition to craving a nuclear power plant, President Lukashenka consistently thwarts attempts by international charitable groups offering aid to his country. He's also determined to recultivate the region heavily affected by Chernobyl, an area that already contains 15 times the amount of cesium in the soil considered safe by international standards.

Last spring, Lukashenka forced the military to plow the territory. "He's ignoring Chernobyl, shutting down charitable organizations, and plowing contaminated land and starting all over," Marples says. And even starting "all over again" is a bit of a misnomer. "The land contaminated was not in the grain belt of the former Soviet Union," Marples says. "It was covered with marshes and woods. People grew potatoes there, but it's not the place that supplied the produce sold in grocery stores. If a place had to get contaminated by Chernobyl, that was probably as good as any, if you can say that." ■

Quaecumque Vera: A day in the life of a motto

By Lee Elliott

The University of Alberta motto: the succinct expression of the lofty aim, a maxim to live by and ... the most commonly used quip by *Folio* letter writers and guest columnists-next to "... it makes sense." It's our own version of "All for one and one for all," comes from the Bible (Philippians 4:8) and means, "Whatsoever things are true." But does it ever enter the classroom, the lab or the office?

DR. VICTOR CHAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, ART AND DESIGN

For Dr. Chan, the man who brought us Reubens and Picasso, the motto is essential to his work.

It's mostly because of the nudes. Throughout his 20-year career, he says about a dozen students have tried to stop the nudes. He shows the slides; those students squirm, and some complain about the overt sexuality they're seeing.

"The obligation I have is to simply relay the history of art ... I can't edit these out," says Chan. "I'm not offended by these oppositions. In those situations, there's a kind of naivete..."

The U of A motto speaks to his resolve to truly teach art history, he says. "I think the word 'truth' is so loaded and so complex. But there is a principle in the word 'truth' that we've all committed ourselves to as enlightened human beings."

In class, "I'm simply representing what happened in the past... We have no right to reinterpret our history in terms of our own beliefs." That doesn't mean we don't bring our biases to the task, he says. But "we have to try very hard to come as close to the truth as possible."

Chan comes from a Jesuit educational background where the priests asked students to cover the private parts depicted in works of art with paper. "Suddenly, when you put these little bits of paper on, they become very provocative," says Chan. "That's what censorship does to some extent."

Dealing with differences in "truths" requires an open forum—even if it means having to hear racist or sexist rhetoric at times. "Censorship always comes with a backlash and opens up a worse scenario," he says. "We have to put up with this because we do not want to infringe on the principles of democracy." We could be silenced next.

"Democracy only works if the majority is intelligent and able to judge for themselves... That is why we're committed to education, because we hope through education people will be enlightened... to be fair and just and all those things."

"Higher learning is about uncovering the truth, no matter how awkward or painful or embarrassing it may be," he says. And it will be painful, he promises, recalling that Nietzsche said, If everyone could come face to face with the naked truth, we could not survive.

For Dr. Dianne Cox, her first year at the U of A has been filled with more pressing issues than learning our motto. "I'm more interested in world class research than in what's

DR. DIANE COX, CHAIR, MEDICAL GENETICS

on my letter-head," she says. She thinks history is important and always uses the university crest on documents because it

lends that official look. But research and outstanding support for students is foremost in her mind. "I want attention to my institution because of its outstanding work, not because of a motto," she says.

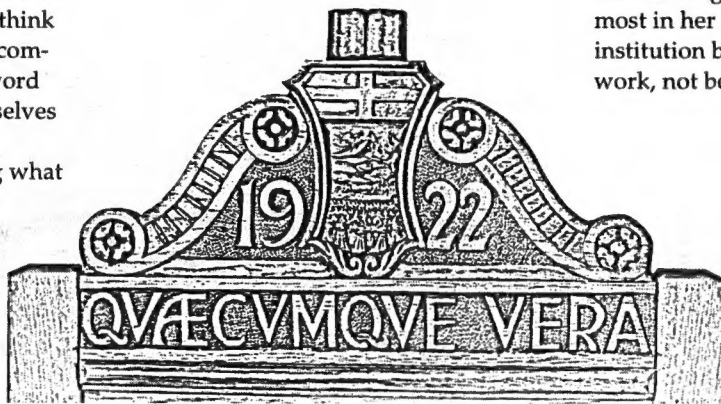
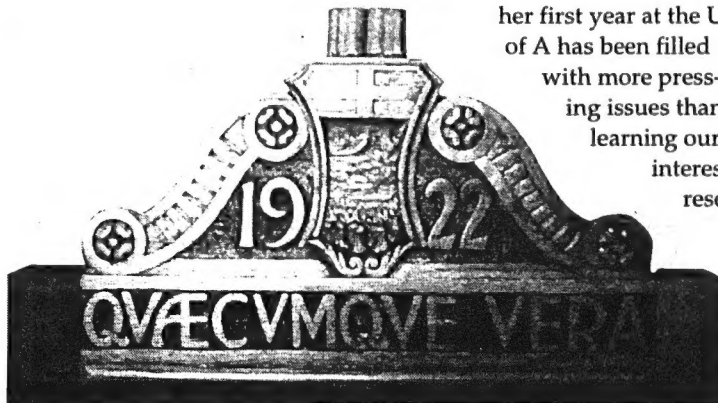
McDonald, steeling himself for the wrath of traditionalists, says, "I know this a very politically incorrect answer, but frankly, I couldn't care less."

BRIAN MCDONALD, ASSOCIATE VICE- PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC, ADMINISTRATION)

"It's a very nice motto," he says. "But whether it does anything for us is beyond me." McDonald attended three universities, University of Saskatchewan, McGill and the University of California, and says he has no idea of what their mottos are. "Does that make me any better of worse?"

In his more than 33 years at the U of A, he says he hasn't seen a lot of issues decided with the guiding wisdom of our motto. Yet he does seem to be somewhat of an expert on the subject. He says everybody knows Harvard's (Veritas—truth). But he also knows Canada's—"A Mari usque ad Mare," the U.S.'s and a number of others. That Latin course paid off.

While he's not sure just what the purpose of the motto is, it is handy, he says. "You can use it in off-the-cuff statements when you think someone's skirting the truth or whatever... you can always use it in the right context to buttress your case."



DR. LEWIS KLAR, DEAN OF LAW

The motto holds equal importance for Dr. Lewis Klar. "I think it is important for the university to have a motto that broadly expresses, as much as one short phrase can do, the essence of a university," he says.

"The pursuit of truth, or perhaps more importantly, the pursuit and advancement of knowledge, defines a university. It is an apt motto. I think that especially in today's political and economic environment, when the 'bottom line' seems to many to be more important than the quality of life and the importance of knowledge, such a motto ought to be brought to mind."

That's not to say we couldn't improve on it. "I might suggest, however,

that a motto should be understandable and in a language which all can understand. The specific Latin phrase in issue is not only difficult to understand, but it is also difficult to say."

Dr. Linsky delights in the ambiguities of the motto.

"Finding ambiguities where others don't see it. That's our business," he says. The word "whatsoever" can be interpreted differently. "Whether it's the breadth of our investigations, or sorting out what's true ... We're supposed to do both."

"I think there is a lot of truth to this, that everything is open to investigation... but I'd like to remind us of the other half of that—you have to get it right."

Quaecumque vera is a great motto for the U of A, he says. It affirms "an obligation to the truth."

But is there an absolute truth? "Yes," he says. In philosophy "we're pretty big on that." He calls the department "a little outpost of believers in objective truth ... or a least half the department is."

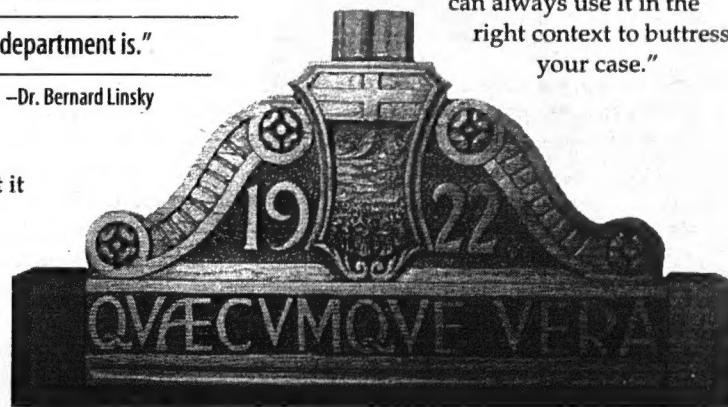
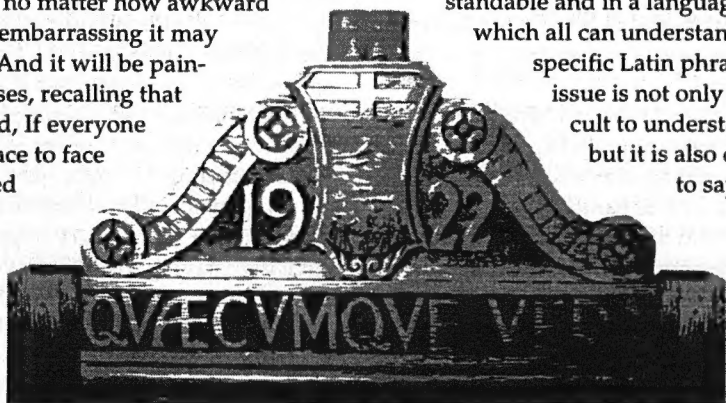
DR. BERNARD LINSKY, ACTING CHAIR, PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy is "a little outpost of believers in objective truth ... or a least half the department is."

—Dr. Bernard Linsky

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or perhaps more
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of knowledge, defines
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—Dr. Lewis Klar



When the ivy-covered walls come crumbling down ...

Virtual professor says all you need to teach university students is a laptop and high-speed modem

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

You have to admit, logging onto a laptop computer with a cellular modem on a boat in the Florida Keys during winter does have a certain appeal.

For Dr. Greg Kearsley, it's just another day teaching his on-line students. Kearsley is a virtual professor. He doesn't use a classroom, doesn't need a library, couldn't care less about a faculty club, and never worries about parking.

"The point of being a virtual professor is that you don't care about institutions. You care about courses and students," says the U of A graduate.

Kearsley teaches his courses from wherever he is in the world. Once it was at a payphone on a beach. Usually, it's from his 24-foot Hunter sailboat called "Thanks Mum." Another time... well, let's just say it was during an intimate moment.

However, the educational technology expert is affiliated with an institution because that's the only way his students can get credit for his courses. Kearsley is based at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, one of the top institutions for distance-education programs in the United States.

Teaching and learning do not have to be confined to a lecture hall with podium and blackboard, he says. "Educators don't do what media know how to do really well." And that is using video and audio clips to hear and see experts in the field.

Kearsley says that's changing—slowly. He says more and more professors and universities are using on-line teaching. He was recently guest lecturer for a course at UBC, along with a Mexican university—all done through electronic communication.

"It adds excitement to classes ... Once we use technology, we get a clear sense that it works," says Kearsley.

A classroom full of faces frustrates him because he can only hear from a small number of students. On-line, however, he says he gets clear, thoughtful responses from all his students, who can read everybody's answers. This is participatory learning, says Kearsley.

Interactive and asynchronous... Who needs scheduled classes with lectures crammed into one hour? Kearsley posts his assignments on-line. Students work and interact whenever they want, not when a university calendar says so. Deadlines, however, are firm.

Kearsley got into virtual teaching out of necessity. As part of the corporate

world in San Diego after graduating from the U of A in 1978, Kearsley was travelling frequently. He was also teaching part-time and had to find a way to fulfil his teaching commitments. As a result, his teaching tools became audio conferences, then video conferences, then posting information on bulletin boards before the birth of World Wide Web pages. Guest lecturers who met with students when he was away complemented his methods.

Dr. Kearsley, the virtual professor, was born.

The general consensus, says Kearsley, is that students are learning more. Although many studies show no negligible differences in learning with or without technology, Kearsley argues there is no theoretical framework to properly measure the differences. That's because theories of learning were created long ago and no longer apply to today's methods, he says. One suggestion, says Kearsley is to look at portfolios of students work, over a longer period of time, rather than exam results.

The downside to being a "virtual professor," as he calls himself is the lack of preparation time because, "we don't have a system which allows professors time to prepare materials. That's why we don't see a lot of technology used in education." We're also dealing with a generation of teachers who are not comfortable using new technology, he says.

So, how can administrators justify spending millions on classroom upgrades when there's no guarantee of their use? It's a necessary expenditure, says Kearsley.

"What we really need to spend money on is training faculty and teachers to prepare themselves. But then we need the facilities available for their use."

Do colleagues of the "virtual professor" think he's a "nutty professor?"

"Yeah, some traditionalists think I'm nuts," says Kearsley. But ivy-covered walls won't come crumbling down anytime soon, says Kearsley.

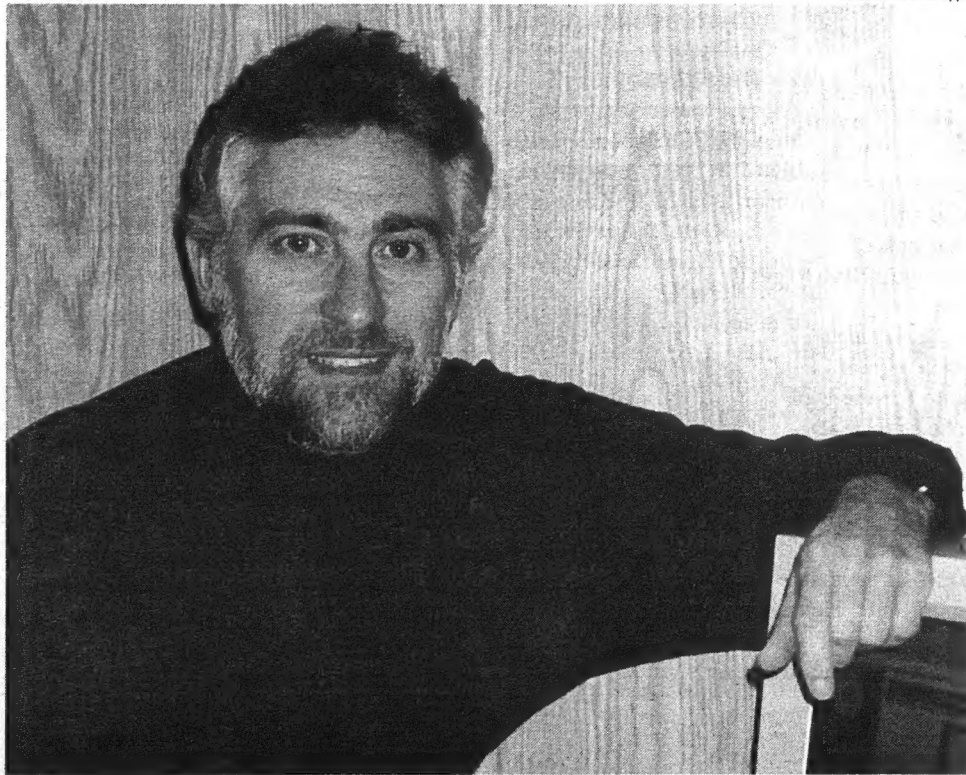
An on-line university is pretty threatening for a lot of people. A virtual university doesn't need a stadium, says Kearsley. That means it doesn't need an athletic director for a semi-pro football team. It doesn't need parking, cafeteria services, or librarians.

"Traditionalists can't imagine effective teaching and learning on-line. I can't imagine it any other way," he says.

For more information on Kearsley, see www.quasar.ualberta.ca/~gregp. ■

Dr. Greg Kearsley

Lucianna Ciccocioppo



folio letters to the editor

If universities forget, cultures do too

The editorial decision, albeit understandable, to couple Derek Sayer's beautifully crafted letter next to the article in the recent *Folio* on the fall of MacEachran in the psychology department removes from his argument much of its pith. The central image of Sayer's allegory is that the hat of one fallen minister appears to be all that remains of his being purged in a repressive regime. Purged he may have been, but his legacy appears to continue, for the hat is on the head of the tyrant Klement Gottwald. Sayer then suggests that "uncritical endorsement of fashionable wisdom... propounded from the pulpits of universities" survives beneath the cover of "critical thinking." The point of Dr. Sayer's comments reach well beyond his example. Although he is not the first person at this university I have heard sneer at our motto that implies that teaching has something to do with truth, a motto that now seems to have been covered over by the rather vulgar pun, "research makes sense," his sneering deserves support. Speaking only

for the humanities, a term which has like the motto, not to speak of Dr. Sayer's oxymoronic "social sciences," fallen into a zone of ill repute, it is fairly evident, even to those who would not so much as touch *The Alberta Report*, that "critical thinking" in universities is generally acceptable only under certain conditions. The larger irony, however, of relating MacEachran's field of eugenics to contemporary university teaching should not be allowed slip beneath the cover of Dr. Sayer's remarks, for what else is our "fashionable wisdom" but a contemporary form of social engineering? Minds are equally capable of sterilization. Prevented from reaching for "quaecumque vera," our students too will be asked to forget, and once universities forget, the culture it is called upon to nourish forgets too, no longer able to remove its hat in homage to the passage of greater wisdom.

E.D. Blodgett

Comparative Literature

Letter writer missed the facts

Derek Sayer (*Folio*, Oct. 24) has accused the Department of Psychology of attempting to "airbrush" away the image and memory of John M. MacEachran, but he has the essential facts wrong. A photo of MacEachran posing with several former chairs of our department remains in the room that once bore his name. A committee duly appointed in early September is examining ways to educate our students about our history and MacEachran's career. I have published an article in an international journal (*Genetica*, 1997, Vol. 99: 185-198) to inform the scientific community about the Leilani Muir case and MacEachran's role as the long-serving chair of the Alberta Eugenics Board.

How could Sayer make such a serious factual error? After the *Folio* article by Michael Robb appeared on September 26, Sayer did not seek further information from either our acting chair or me, the author of the motions to rename the conference room and lecture series, nor did he come over to see the room with his own eyes. As far as I can discover, he did no investigation at all. Instead, he read into that article things it did not contain, and on this basis he denounced our action as "contemptible" and suggested we suffer from a "disease."

The original U of A press release (March 12, 1975) announcing the lecture series in MacEachran's name stated that he "was instrumental in the mental health movement in Alberta," and this phrase was repeated for 22 years in the lectures published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. Metaphorically speaking, this was indeed an "airbrushing" that sought to expunge unsightly blemishes from our department's history. For most of us, we began to learn the fuller truth during the Leilani Muir trial starting in June of 1995, and clearly this bit of history needed to be revised because it was incomplete on a crucial topic.

Leilani Muir herself addressed a department colloquium in September of 1995 and told us of her travails. The decision in the Muir trial was handed down in January, 1996, and not long thereafter I began writing the article for *Genetica* and circulated the manuscript among colleagues. In April of 1997 I submitted the motions to Gene Lechelt, who decided not to bring them to council during his final weeks as

chair. The lengthy *Saturday Night* article by Heather Pringle on eugenics in Alberta and MacEachran's role appeared in July, and then our acting chair, Gay Bisanz, put the motions on the agenda and made background material available to members of the department council. On September 3, we engaged in a lengthy and thoughtful discussion about our past and then voted. Perhaps we could be accused of waiting too long to act on this matter but certainly not of being too hasty or immoderate.

Sayer claims MacEachran's "only sin" was to be "secure in the authority of his knowledge." No doubt he felt secure, but his subjective state is not at issue. The crucial point is that MacEachran lacked the training and expertise to judge anybody's likelihood of transmitting a mental defect to progeny or even to assess mental deficiency. He was qualified to teach philosophy, but as chair of the Eugenics Board, he was a political appointee guided by ideology. (He was appointed by the 1928 Act of the Legislative Assembly, not by the U of A Senate.)

Let us not forget that MacEachran bore major responsibility for the suffering of more than 2,000 terrified and defenceless children who were forcibly marched into a crude surgical room and maimed for no good reason. The words of Madame Justice Joanne Veit are clear: "The circumstances of Ms. Muir's sterilization were so high-handed and so contemptuous of the statutory authority to effect sterilization, and were undertaken in an atmosphere that so little respected Ms. Muir's human dignity that the community's, and the court's sense of decency is offended." (*Dominion Law Reports*, 1996, Vol. 132, pp. 695-762)

I fully concur with this condemnation of MacEachran, the Eugenics Board and the government that knowingly caused this tragedy. Given that MacEachran never achieved eminence as a social scientist in his own lifetime, there is simply no good reason why the Department of Psychology should continue to honor him. This is no denial of history. There are much better ways to keep the memory of past events alive than having the perpetrator of such cruel deeds preside in perpetuity over the most solemn occasions in our department.

Doug Wahlsten

Department of Psychology

Laptop follies at the U of A

By **Peter Cahill**, president, Graduate Students' Association

The Faculty of Engineering is considering forcing engineering students to purchase laptops. The motivation for such a drastic plan is described in the Report from the Task Force on Instructional Technology. The report cites the need to 'improve and enhance the education experience' and to provide greater opportunity to learn much needed computer skills. The Faculty of Engineering also finds it too expensive to maintain computer labs.

The proposal would see students leasing laptops for between \$1,000 to \$1,500 per year. Anyone who has bought a computer knows the lower range of the estimate is implausible. Of course these laptops would be eligible for tax deductions like tuition wouldn't they? Actually they would be eligible for tax credits (not at all the same thing) and only if the leasing fee is assessed as part of tuition fees. So the proposal so far involves a \$1,500,000 expenditure per year for every 1,000 students involved.

What benefits would students see for such a large annual expenditure? Well, the major benefit is that these laptops will act as 'a catalyst for change' in the words of the report. What does this mean? It means professors will have greater incentive to provide multimedia, interactive courseware. Of course the report mentions that professors will not be forced to do so. I suspect this is to make the proposal more palatable to professors. But professors should imagine how popular they will be with students who come to class with laptops not needed in that course.

The lease itself is described as being between the student and a 'major vendor.' The authors of this report have not been students for a quite while if they think many major vendors will give students laptops on credit. What happens if a student withdraws from the program? Do they return the laptop? Who gets stuck with the bill?

If students can't secure financing, who will help them—the university? Not likely. The Students' Finance Board? Not currently.

There are a few other drawbacks to the proposal. Do students carry loads of batteries with them, or will there be power plug-ins at every desk? Many of our lecture halls do not have sufficient space for students to comfortably type on a laptop. Imagine the noise of a hundred students typing, broken only by a loud crash and curses when a laptop falls to the floor. How will students take notes on a laptop in math, chemistry, physics or in any course that involves diagrams, equations or symbols? (That sounds like an awful lot of the engineering courses doesn't it?)

What about reliability? What happens to the student whose laptop crashes or freezes during a lecture? What happens if the software for one course wreaks havoc with other software?

What other 'advantages' do laptops have? Well their graphics are poor relative to desktops of similar price, making them poor for applications like Autocad—a program engineers use. Laptops are also more expensive and difficult to upgrade than desktops.

For all of these problems, how is the learning experience enhanced? Well actually, research has shown that for most people comprehension is reduced by around 20 per cent when reading off of a computer screen as opposed to a piece of paper.

Having the cost of laptops included in the tuition fee (for the tax credit) means the Faculty of Engineering would need almost six years of the maximum allowable tuition increases. Will the public support this? If you use the money for laptops, then where are you going to find the money for salary increases or even for keeping up with inflation?

Why make laptops mandatory? What if a student already has access to a good computer at work, at home, or through a friend? Why force all students to purchase from the same vendor? Who will choose the lucky vendor? I wonder if Task Force members get free 'trial' laptops the same way that professors get free evaluation copies of textbooks?

I suspect all the supposed educational benefits of this proposal could be obtained by increasing student fees roughly \$300 per academic year and directing this funding into better labs. Students would have access to better and more powerful computers than they could afford to buy individually. Of course they couldn't take them to class, but really, why would they want to?

I am not a Luddite. I even own a laptop. But I wonder how many of the members of this committee have laptops? How many have brought them to class as students? How many have created interactive, multimedia courseware? And finally, how many have student loans?

Can they really think of no better use for an extra few million dollars every year? ■



Tina Chang

An educational sabbath

By **Dr. Christopher Levan**, principal, St. Stephen's College

"Why didn't they tell me in Grade 9 that I would need physics to get into architecture?" That was the plea of my high school graduating daughter who is looking for her first admission into the halls of higher learning.

Like many of Rebecca's comrades, she is sensing an ever increasing pressure to tailor her young educational career according to degree prerequisites. Almost from her elementary school onwards, specialization became a fact of life, streaming more and more young people through narrower and narrower scholastic corridors.

Concentrating our education energies on smaller and less significant pieces of the puzzle of wisdom may not be helpful, either for the short-term employability or intellectual maturity of our children. After all, corporations now recognize that work skills are

an on-the-job consideration. Given that modern workers will have between three and five careers in their working life, knowing how to learn is more important than any specialized knowledge we can acquire at college.

Of course, the technical fragmentation of information has certainly been one of the motivating forces behind the trend of truncating educational options for young people. The university's propensity to carve off mini scholastic empires which create their own fields of expertise is another. (The latter fact is something for which professors will have to do many years of penance in purgatory, I imagine.)

But rather than lament how twisted and complex our educational structures have become, I want to dwell on its merits. Truncated and inadequate as a university degree might appear to be, I am still con-

vinced by what it will offer to my daughter. No, let me be precise. I am most impressed with what she sees as its advantages.

While the distinct and discreet disciplines place restrictions on her options, she can't wait to enter into that time of her life when she is set free to study. No parents breathing down her neck, no teachers hovering and prodding from morning to late afternoon. University is the great escape from imposed education, not to mention the limitations of the parental nest.

How easily we can forget or dismiss the sheer delight that fires students as they fill out applications for their chosen course of study. It's not what they learn here so much as what the entire experience represents that is so appealing.

Imagine it. Taking four years to have the opportunity to reflect on life's greatest questions. An open spirit and an eager mind being the primary tools.

What a gift! How many of us would like to be granted time to but enjoy the play of ideas? In religious terms, I call this a "Sab-

bath." Our time at university is that unique moment in our lives when we lay aside the traditional employment expectations in order to explore the pathways of the head and heart—an educational Sabbath.

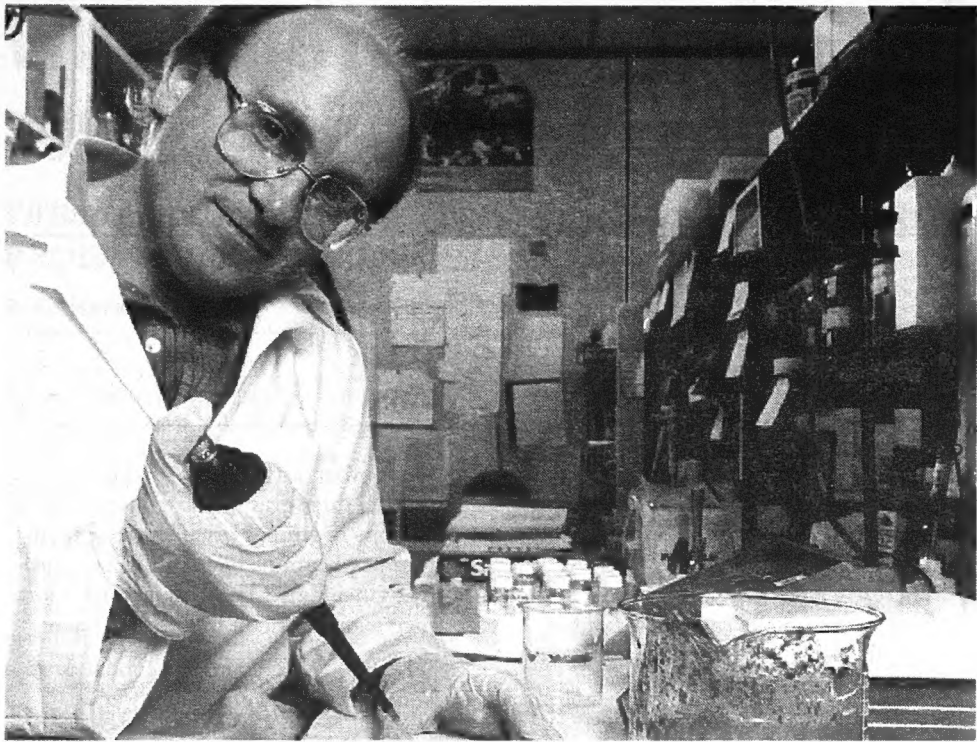
I know this may sound rather naive, but there is a great beauty in the university community that escapes us as we shuffle through our tattered lecture notes or mounting administrative files.

In a competitive, consumptive culture where what you can win or purchase become the primary benchmarks of success, the university is still one of the few havens where what you think is still held in high esteem. In this place, your economic status, social background, physical prowess or political clout count for little.

Sure, the specialization of wisdom is a lamentable problem, vexing young people across the country. Let us remind ourselves that we are much more than separate disciplines. The bottom line? The university offers a precious—nay priceless—gift of time.

Amen! ■

I know this may sound rather naive, but there is a great beauty in the university community that escapes us as we shuffle through our tattered lecture notes or mounting administrative files.



Dr. Charles Holmes

Richard Siemens

Blue green danger

By Kathleen Thurber, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Heritage researcher Dr. Charles Holmes can often be found on a hot summer's day on the shores of one of Alberta lakes. But he's not sunbathing. Holmes is usually wading knee-deep into foul-smelling blankets of blue-green algae on the water's surface, filling endless buckets with the slime to test in his U of A lab.

Blue-green algae blooms are on the rise worldwide, possibly because of increased use of fertilizers in farming. The chemicals in agricultural runoff provide increased nutrification in the water, promoting more frequent and more extensive algae blooms. While not all algae contain toxins, more algae growth means greater potential for harmful microcystin contamination.

Microcystin toxin can be lethal to animals and humans when taken directly into the bloodstream. It is as potent as cobra venom, and an amount the weight of a few grains of sand could kill an adult human if injected. Yet, blue-green algae has been used as a food supplement for centuries, without any documented ill effects. This could be because stomach acids would destroy any microcystins. However, there is a growing amount of evidence from biochemical research like that of Holmes' to suggest swallowing blue-green algae has a number of effects.

"The boost of energy some people get when they eat blue-green algae results from a reaction in the liver. Microcystins alter how the liver breaks down glycogen, a complex carbohydrate. The result is similar to a rush of adrenaline. The use of blue-green algae for race horses is because of this energy boost, yet it's not a banned substance like other stimulants," says Holmes. "However, because microcystins are very strongly linked to liver cancer, we can't be sure the digestive system destroys all the toxin."

"It's difficult for consumers to tell if blue-green algae food supplements contain microcystins, because the health food industry is unregulated, so the testing that would indicate their presence is not mandatory," he adds. Testing by his U of A biochemistry students last year as a lab

project revealed microcystins in several types of algae food supplements.

Health Canada strictly enforces testing for drinking water, however. The Manitoba government for the past three years has contracted Holmes' lab to test Winnipeg's drinking water source, which regularly experiences algae blooms. When blooms occur, Winnipeg switches water sources until the bloom is finished. In Alberta, the story is different.

When several Alberta lakes experience algae blooms with microcystins present, water filtration systems cannot remove all of the toxin. This isn't normally a problem because the microcystin levels to date have been within Health Canada guidelines, and the water is used for drinking.

It's when water is used for kidney dialysis treatments and comes in close contact with the patient's bloodstream—that safety issues arise. Holmes tests the water used for dialysis in Northern Alberta, and says, "In Canada, sophisticated filtration systems that employ correctly functioning reverse osmosis equipment provide a high degree of assurance that kidney dialysis water is safe, but in many countries of the world, such standards are difficult to maintain. In Brazil last year, 50 kidney dialysis patients died be-

cause of microcystins in the treatment water."

Holmes has developed a technology that can help prevent such tragedies. His kit, which is being developed for commercialization, could realize a global market potential because it's easy to manufacture and, since it's based on a color change, it is easy to use.

Holmes' research and resulting innovation shows that Albertans aren't completely out of the water when it comes to contaminated algae blooms, but with vigilant testing and excellent science, we can maintain the highest levels of safety for vulnerable populations.

Holmes is a Heritage Senior Scholar at the University of Alberta's Department of Biochemistry. He also receives support from MRC Canada. ■

Three to be honored at fall convocation

By Lee Elliott

Aboriginal leader Georges Erasmus, Japanese politician and humanitarian Tatsuo Ozawa, and Alberta author and conservationist Andrew (Andy) Russell will receive honorary doctor of laws degrees during fall convocation November 19 and 20, 1997.

In a revised schedule, Georges

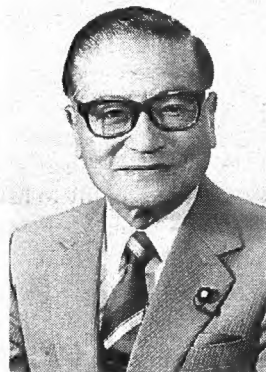
Erasmus will receive his honorary doctorate of laws, Wednesday November 19. He is recognized for the reconciliation work he's done between Canada and First Nations peoples. He served as president of the Dene Nation from 1976 to 1983 and as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations from 1985 to 1991. Most recently, he served as co-chair of Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

While on campus, Erasmus will participate in the Department of Political Science's lecture series with a public lecture Tuesday, November 18, 7 p.m., 2-115 Education North.

Tatsuo Ozawa had thought he would be unable to attend the convocation due to illness, but has now been given medical approval to travel and will receive his degree Thursday, November 20. Ozawa



Georges Erasmus



Tatsuo Ozawa

will also attend the official opening of The Centre for the Teaching of Japanese Language and Culture. Ozawa's political career spans 37 years. He held a number of senior positions within the Japanese government including serving as Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Finance and as a minister of three other departments. Ozawa's international activities are extensive. He is a founding member of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Forum, is helping to develop a vision paper for the Asia Pacific Region to help lead them into the 21st century and chairs the Japan/Canada Friendship League. Ozawa also plays an integral role fostering U of A relations in Japan.

Andy Russell will also receive his honorary degree November 20. Russell has enhanced appreciation of Alberta's heritage through his lifelong dedication

to its history, wildlife and environment. A self-taught author, Russell's writings earned him membership in New York's exclusive Explorer's Club.

A native Albertan, his career highlights include stints as a

cowboy, bronco-buster, trail guide and grizzly hunter. His concern for the environment led to additional work as a photographer, film-maker and lecturer.

The Faculty of Extension will present a public lecture by Russell on the art of storytelling at the Lister Hall banquet room November 19 at 2 p.m. ■



Andy Russell

appointments

Trehearne appointed associate vice-president

by Folio staff

Vice-President (Academic) Doug O'wram today announced the appointment of Fran Trehearne as the associate vice-president (academic administration) effective January 1998.

Fran Trehearne will succeed Brian McDonald in the position upon McDonald's retirement after 36.5 years at the University of Alberta.

"Like so many around campus, we have all appreciated the dedication, care, creativity and the history with which Brian McDonald has approached the job," says O'wram, "However, we must now allow Brian to enjoy his well-earned retirement."

Trehearne is a familiar face around the U of A campus. He has been employed by the University for 21 years and has held various positions including director of the Office of Human Rights, executive assistant to the dean in the Faculty of Arts, associate director in the Engineering Placement Office, and as student advisor.

"I am confident that Mr Trehearne's knowledge, skills, experience and familiarity with the University of Alberta will make him a very strong person in the role as associate vice-president (academic ad-

ministration)," says O'wram. "I welcome him to the Office of the Vice-President (Academic)."



Fran Trehearne

ALBERTA HERITAGE
FOUNDATION FOR
MEDICAL RESEARCH



A glimpse at an Imperial Legacy

U of A hosts first Canadian painting exhibition by nephew of China's last emperor

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

Growing up surrounded by scholarly artists, it is no wonder Aixinjueluo Yuhuan eagerly picked up a paint brush as young child.

"It was a fresh, delightful, new thing to do," say Yuhuan, speaking through interpreter, Dr. Richard John Lynn, U of A's chair of East Asian Studies.

Under the watchful eyes of his father and uncle, Xinru, a famous painter and calligrapher, Yuhuan learned the great traditions of Chinese art, particularly those practised in the Manchu court.

That's because Yuhuan hails from a noble family. He was born in 1930 in Beijing in the Prince Gong palace. His family is from the Imperial Manchu Aixinjueluo clan, and he is the nephew of the last emperor of China.

This was the foundation upon which he built his career, one which includes a diversity of artistic activities: cartoonist, arts editor, illustrator, author, film consultant and arts and crafts designer.

Yuhuan is also an accomplished musician, a scholar of Chinese folk music, and a three-stringed lute player.

He chose to major in visual arts for his fine arts degree at Beijing Normal University but studied Western style painting. Chinese art was not an option. Studying the works of Soviet painters was.



By the time Yuhuan graduated in 1953, he says he realized all great works of art are similar in principle. "Like people, there are different lifestyles, different countries. As we sit here together, from different cultures, we basically think the same things," says Yuhuan.

Known for his meticulous attention to detail, Yuhuan says landscape painting is his favorite. The figurative paintings hanging in the Fine Arts Building as part of his exhibition were done long ago, he says, when his eyesight was much better.

"I can't make things up," says the artist. "I must paint things as they look."

Depicting reality—this is what a true "palace" artist must do, as the traditions of his ancestors hold him to do. That is why the serene woman by the waterfall leans ever so slightly to listen to the rush of the water behind her. And the mist rises delicately into the air, as if to moisten the gallery it's hanging in.

The Manchu traditions go back to the 17th century, when an Italian Jesuit priest, Giuseppe Castiglione, arrived in the Qing court, which ran from 1644–1911.

Castiglione became a typical court painter and had a lasting impact on Manchu artists. The painting of abstracts and ideas is directly opposite to the Manchu court tradition. Yuhuan's family emulated the realistic style of the Ming and Qing dynasty masters.

Like all Manchu court artists, Yuhuan's paintings are attempts at capturing the spirit of his subjects. As a result, there is much symbolism in each precisely placed tree, rock, bird or flower.

When asked what people can learn from his paintings, the artist modestly refrains from answering.

Instead, he explains the purpose of the exhibition. Yuhuan wants to bring Chinese culture closer to the Western world, to expose the works to everyday people.

And he's helping his paintings come to life at the University of Alberta in more ways than one. Proceeds of the sale of his works will go to two causes: to help the poorer areas of China; and to initiate a fund-



Artist Aixinjueluo Yuhuan bridges centuries-old China with its modern-day counterpart through his paintings.



raising campaign for a Chinese garden at the U of A's Devonian Botanic Garden.

Dr. Dale Vitt, director of the garden, says about six acres of land were set aside for the project after a discussion with Edmonton's Chinese community last year. And in a few short years, Albertans will enjoy the artistic tranquility of a Chinese garden.

Imperial Legacy: Paintings of Yuhuan is on at the Fine Arts Building Gallery until November 9, 1997. ■

TRADITIONAL SYMBOLS OF CHINESE PAINTINGS:

- Flowers and birds represent the cycle of nature, its abundance and mystery;
- Figures evoke fortitude, nostalgia and nationalism;
- Landscapes reflect a cosmic vision, underlining the intellectual, philosophical and moral foundation of Chinese culture.

» quick » facts



U of A Press preview

THE LADIES, THE GWICH'IN, AND THE RAT: TRAVELS ON THE ATHABASCA, MACKENZIE, RAT, PORCUPINE, AND YUKON RIVERS IN 1926,
BY CLARA VYVYAN, EDITED BY I.S. MACLAREN AND LISA N. LAFRAMBOISE

By Leslie Vermeer

In 1926, two British women, travel writers, Clara Coltman Rogers and her friend Gwendolen Dorrien Smith, paddled alone down the Porcupine River west of the Continental Divide towards Old Crow, Yukon Territory. The women had come from Cornwall to Edmonton, and had travelled through northern Alberta, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon by rail, sternwheeler and canoe. Rogers and Dorrien Smith were among the earliest women recreational travellers in the North, and they found their journey a liberating, exhilarating experience.

Vyvyan's memoir of the voyage was recorded in her 1961 book *Arctic Adventure*. Inuit and Gwich'in, trappers and fur traders, lawyers and judges, Mounties, government agents, doctors, nuns and priests are all captured faithfully in Vyvyan's story, as the women travel down the Mackenzie River and over the Divide

in search of the North of Robert Service and the Klondike gold rush.

The Ladies, the Gwich'in, and the Rat, a scholarly edition of *Arctic Adventure* soon to be released by the University of Alberta Press, reveals that Vyvyan's North is shaped by British imperialist expectations as well as by the wilderness landscape. In their introduction and extensive textual notes, editors MacLaren and LaFramboise thoroughly explore the significance of the women's travels and their attitudes, drawing upon church, fur-trade, native and government archives to provide a detailed portrait of the North in the



early twentieth century. This edition includes Vyvyan's own field notes, as well as excerpts from letters she wrote during the trip and from Dorrien Smith's field notes, which help to shape our understanding of the women's efforts to find a voice and sensibility in which to record and inscribe the northern wilderness.

The new edition includes maps, dozens of contemporary photographs, and reproductions of twelve of Dorrien Smith's watercolors, which were painted as the women travelled. These illustrations bring the narrative into sharper relief, helping the reader to see through Vyvyan's eyes while at the

same time revealing her biases and blind spots.

The Ladies, The Gwich'in, and the Rat is a valuable text, both for its historical content and for its present-day perspective. The body of the book, Vyvyan's original memoir, is a fascinating read; and the field notes and editorial commentaries bring greater insight to Vyvyan's northern experience. Professor Robert Cockburn of the University of New Brunswick calls it "a lively, well-told work of northern travel literature ... We have so few books by women about northern life early in this century that *The Ladies, The Gwich'in, and the Rat* constitutes a truly significant original contribution to the field of northern studies."

I.S. MacLaren is a professor of English and Canadian studies at the U of A. Lisa N. LaFramboise recently completed her doctoral dissertation here, writing on women's travel in early Canada. ■

Engineering Faculty receives half million dollar gift

By Sandra Halme

The University of Alberta Campaign received a financial boost from Edmonton's Interprovincial Pipe Line Inc. (IPL). During his address at an Edmonton Chamber of Commerce gathering, IPL Energy CEO Brian MacNeill announced a \$500,000 investment in the University's Faculty of Engineering. The funds will provide annual scholarships for twenty undergraduate civil, electrical and mechanical engineering students.

"Strategic relationships, like that fostered with IPL, are mutually beneficial," says Rod Fraser, president of the University of Alberta. "Such corporate involvement assists us in continuing to provide our students with the quality of education necessary to be competitive in our global marketplace. At the same time, employers are being supplied with qualified, intelligent graduates."

Money raised by the U of A's campaign will support students through scholarships, bursaries and enhancements to learning environments, as well as scholars, with professorships and academic chairs. In addition to his role as CEO of Calgary-based IPL Energy, a North American leader in energy delivery and services, MacNeill

serves as one of the three co-chairs of the University of Alberta Campaign, aimed at raising \$145 million over the next five years.

"We make this investment in advanced education

knowing it will provide returns to us and the people of Alberta into the future," says MacNeill. "Our company employs, and depends on, a great many engineers and highly-skilled people for our continued success.

Following the announcement, MacNeill extended a challenge to his

peers and to individual Albertans. "My participation, and IPL's financial commitment, are more than gifts of time and money. I think of them as a challenge to every Alberta company, and every Albertan, to follow IPL's lead by contributing to the University of Alberta's fundraising campaign." ■

CAMPAIGN highlights:

- The U of A has received cash, pledges and commitments totalling \$88,629,424;
- This represents 61 per cent of the goal of \$144,650,000
- Over \$12 million has been raised to support an undergraduate scholarship and bursary endowment, that's 42 per cent of the \$30,000,000 goal
- \$8,400,000 has been raised for graduate student tuition scholarships
- \$3,000,000 has been donated to fund the medical genetics chair.

»» quick »» facts

"Strategic relationships, like that fostered with IPL, are mutually beneficial," says Rod Fraser, president of the University of Alberta.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA CAMPAIGN

"There is never a time to give up... always hope"

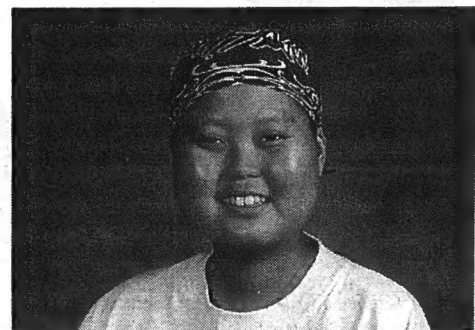
Peter Jang Memorial Fund donates \$22,400 for purchase of vital piece of equipment

By Michael Robb

Outside the Muttart Conservatory, there is thunderchild crabapple tree—a tree known for its resistance to disease. If you look closely, every once in a while, there are tiny angels or purple ribbons hanging from its branches. It was planted in memory of Peter Jang, the Vernon Barford Junior High School student who died so tragically in 1996 of acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Jang's friends and family haven't forgotten him, and they're working to ensure that the tree planted to memorialize the courageous fighter won't be the only lasting good that comes of a family's tragedy. In fact, organizers associated with the Peter Jang Memorial Fund recently donated another \$22,400 to support research conducted here at the University of Alberta.

The money will be used to purchase a coulter counter, a vital piece of equipment oncology researchers use to count and determine the size of suspended cells. Department of Oncology Chair Dr. Carol Cass says the machine will arrive in several weeks. Meantime, she's suggested the researchers make a presentation to people who helped raise the money about what the new machine will be used for and, in



Peter Jang

general, what oncology researchers are doing.

While researchers are busy trying to unlock the secrets of the deadly disease, friends of Peter Jang are busy raising money—through dances, dinners, auctions—to support that effort and provide support to other families who have children with cancer. Tracy Alloway, a member of the Peter Jang Memorial Fund Youth Board, says: "Peter was a good friend. This is a positive thing to do and good place to put my energy out of respect for Peter."

"It takes a lot of work and energy to plan and carry out these things," says Alloway.

"We sometimes forget how powerful kids are," says Lorraine Dielin, president of the Memorial Fund. "Peter left an inspirational legacy."

It's not the first time, the University of Alberta has benefited from money raised in Jang's honor. When the teenager died, about \$127,000 had been raised by his friends to send Jang to Minnesota for experimental leukemia treatment. Unfortunately, his deteriorating condition made him ineligible for the treatment. When he died, \$70,000 of that money was donated to support the work of a team of U of A researchers studying leukemia.

The team of researchers is studying what they believe is a mechanism of cancer cell resistance to drugs used to treat leukemia in children. About 30 per cent of children with the disease do not respond positively to the drugs. One of the researchers, pharmacology professor Dr. Wendy Gati, says the team has started, and they're happy with their progress. They are now applying for additional money from other sources to continue the work.



Killam 1997/98

Healthy little bodies means healthy little minds

Killam award winning professor says children should keep moving

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

It's a long way from the soccer fields of his native England, where after three years of playing for Carlisle United, Dr. Graham J. Fishburne hung up his professional jersey for the last time.

It was then he decided he would hit the books and go back to teaching math, science and physical education to children.

This way, he could combine his engineering background and love of sports, particularly soccer and track and field.

It was a decision that eventually led to a career teaching teachers at the University of Alberta.

And, as the Killam Annual Professorship Award for 1997-98 proves, his career is filled with top-notch research, lectures, and community contributions. All in the name of getting more children more involved in any kind of sport or activity program.

"I see Grade 1 children who can't wait to run into the gym. If I let them outside, I know they'll start climbing up trees," says Fishburne with enthusiasm.

"But 12 years later, these students are now conditioned to a more sedentary lifestyle....The natural aspect of activity in the community is no longer there."

Fishburne says it's important in this time of computers and cable television to counterbalance sedentary learning and amusements with activity.

"Studies show fitness levels decrease as children go through school, especially for girls," says Fishburne.

This is a health concern now and could be a prerequisite for disease later in life, he says.

But more importantly, research shows activity and movement help children stay more alert and more focused which in turn helps them process information better says Fishburne.

It also helps children manage stress, which helps create a better classroom environment.

The key, says Fishburne, is to create suitable programs which entice children.

"Children have to have competencies before they can be successful. For example, if they lack hand-eye coordination, don't start with handball," says Fishburne. "Or if they don't have rhythm, leave out dancing."

This is another area of Fishburne's research—trying to get physically awkward children involved. There is always something a reluctant child can do, he says.

"We have more brain cells for receiving information from movement than we do for vision and hearing combined," says Fishburne. "Therefore, why not use all three when teaching?"

It's one reason he brings his set of colorful juggling balls around to classes.

Holding the balls up when teaching a lesson, Fishburne delights in keeping his students in suspense until the very end when he demonstrates that, yes, he can actually juggle.

"I think I have the most exciting job in the world. It's like being paid for a hobby."

And it shows.

Fishburne is a recipient of the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Teaching, the 3M Canadian Universities National Teaching Award, and the Faculty of Education Teaching Award.

As a leading international expert in sports pedagogy, theory and research, Fishburne will also be contributing to Alberta Education's revamping of curricula for elementary and secondary schoolchildren.

Fishburne says he's excited about the provincial government's increased interest in promoting a more active lifestyle for schoolchildren.

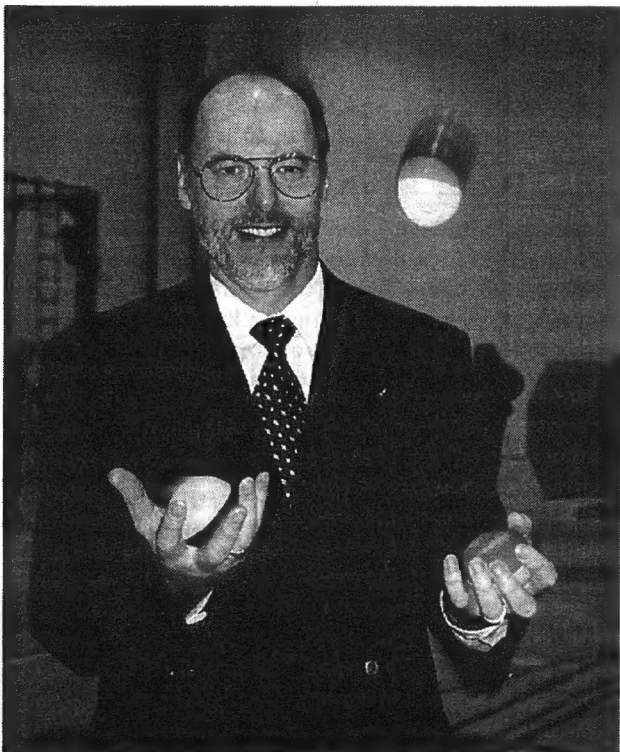
But community contributions closer to his heart include coaching his younger daughter's soccer team "which hasn't been beat in the last two years," he says.

And when the soccer shoes come off, the painter's smock goes on.

Fishburne paints watercolors.

In a book he takes everywhere, Fishburne sketches landscapes that come to life on canvas when he pushes the textbooks and coach's whistle aside. ■

1997-98 Killam Annual Professorship Award winner, Dr. Graham Fishburne, keeps the fun in fitness.



"Oh, my aching back!"

Killam award winner, Dr. Shrawan Kumar, explores the enigma of lower back pain

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

Dr. Shrawan Kumar knew it was serious. Starting up his gas lawn mower one day sent him into hospital with excruciating and debilitating back pain. He was in for several days. "It was the worst back pain I ever had."

As a physical therapy professor, he knew exactly what had happened. Unfortunately, for that nagging, tense feeling people have in general, there's no definitive explanation for the causes of low back pain. "There are over 100 risk factors. You can't even isolate one factor," says Kumar.

While it seems everyone knows someone who suffers from low back pain, Kumar does not believe this affliction is becoming more prevalent. But greater social awareness, and social economic policies like no-fault insurance, which makes back pain eligible for compensation, contribute to a perception back pain is on the rise, says Kumar.

"If you increase the number of risk factors, or the severity of risk factors, then you certainly see a rise in incidences of lower back pain," explains Kumar. "But, you cannot say if one sits too long, or lifts too much, one will have 'x' amount of back

pain." Doctors can only make informed guesses and suggest work or lifestyle changes but they can never entirely eliminate the risk factors, says Kumar.

Evolution contributes to the human propensity to lower back pain. Our change in posture, from quadruped to biped, has certainly had a significant impact, says the professor. "We rely on the lower extremities for support. The lower back provides the bone connection to the upper back," says Kumar.

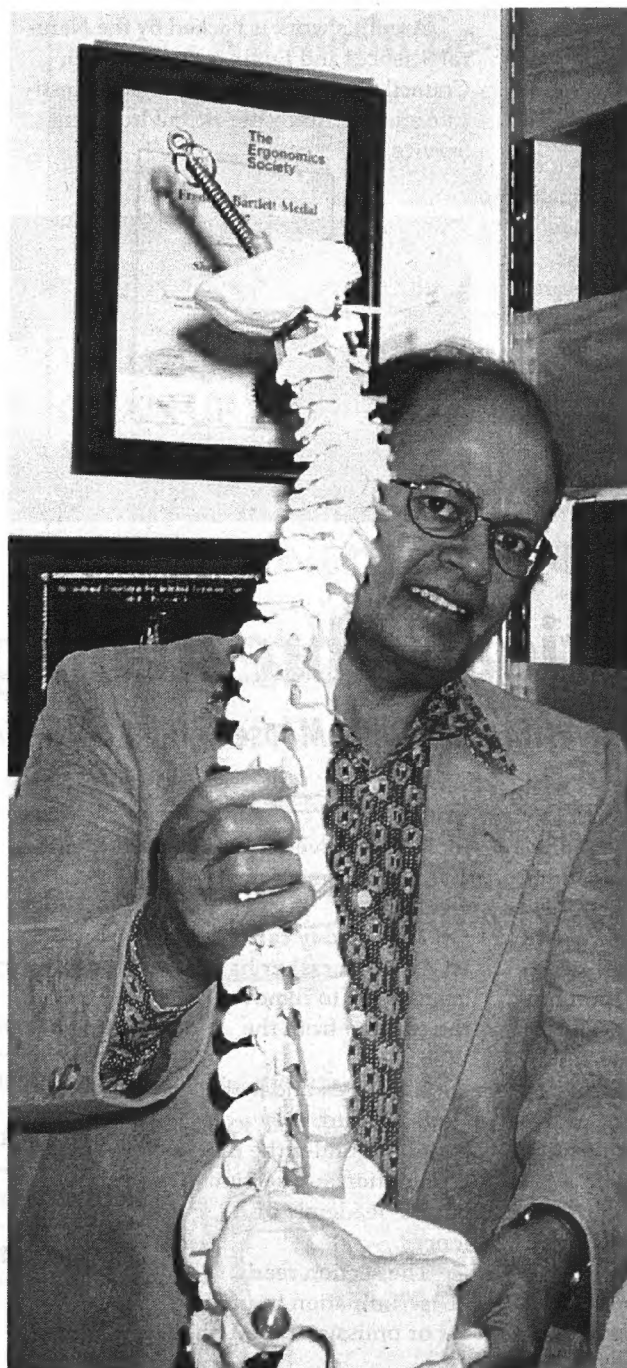
He illustrates by pointing to the last five vertebrae on a model human spine, where all the forces are concentrated in the body. "This stress concentration is such that everything one does passes through here. It's not just bones, but soft tissues which hold everything in place," says Kumar. More important, these tissues are visco-elastic. That means they are highly sensitive to how fast one moves. A tissue that can move one millimeter but stretches to two during a quick motion can cause significant problems, says the professor.

In addition, Kumar says back pain is an affliction. "You're not always going to get better by simply resting. In fact, too much resting can increase the chances of the person's disability," he says. "Very sedentary people are second only to people with extremely heavy workloads in incidences of back pain."

What is one supposed to do, then? Well, Kumar says don't be afraid to put any stress on the lower back because that's what it was designed for. "You must use it or lose it," he says.

His research into low back pain has led Kumar to invent two devices: a teaching aid for therapists and a spinal mobilizer therapists use to treat their clients. The physical therapy professor has been recognized internationally with two prestigious awards: the Sir Frederic Bartlett Medal, the first Canadian to receive the honor; and the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Award. He is also a previous McCalla Research Professor.

"No one will rid the human race of lower back pain," says Kumar. That should keep the professor's classes full for a long time to come. ■



Dr. Shrawan Kumar holds up a spine that's feeling no pain.

Drip, drip drip... Is the glacier shrinking or expanding?

Tracking the ebb and flow of Arctic glaciers

By Michael Robb

It's one of the most remote places on earth, and some 4,000 years ago only a few people lived there. Norse artifacts have been unearthed dating from 1250-1350 AD. William Baffin actually saw the island in 1616. But Ellesmere Island wasn't actually explored until two centuries later.

Today a team of University of Alberta researchers calls Canada's most northerly island home on an intermittent basis. The research they're conducting may unlock some important clues about how the world's glaciers grow and shrink. And the work Earth and Atmospheric Sciences graduate student Anthony Arendt is doing may help climatologists piece together a few more parts of the global warming puzzle.

Arendt is paying particular attention to a giant mass of ice on Ellesmere's north east coast, the John Evans Glacier, a 90-square-kilometre glacier extending inland from Dobbin Bay. He's asking a deceptively simple question: Is the glacier getting bigger or is it shrinking?

His work is the stuff of measurement. Poking and prodding the giant sheet of ice with high-tech instrumentation, Arendt has been determining how much snow falls in a year, how deep and how dense the snow is, and, by calculating air temperatures and solar energy, how much melting occurs during the short, Arctic summer. He's using these data to develop a computer model to simulate those complex, interrelated processes.

"Monitoring the way glaciers are responding to climate change in remote regions of the Arctic is extremely costly and can only be carried out at a few sites," says glaciologist Dr. Martin Sharp, Arendt's thesis advisor. Scientists have developed sophisticated "energy balance melt models," which provide the most reliable predictions of the sensitivity of glaciers to climate change. But they require huge amounts of data, and they too can only be applied to those few sites, for which local meteorological data are available.

Researchers have realized there's a pressing need for simpler models which can be driven by data collected routinely by Atmospheric Environment Service weather stations, and then applied more widely. That's where Arendt's work comes in. Although he will be refining his model over the next year, Arendt is hopeful other researchers will be able to rely on this simplified model, and that the model can be used on other glaciers across the Arctic to unlock regional patterns.



"If we can begin to understand those regional patterns, it may be possible to properly evaluate the likely response of Arctic ice masses to future climate change, and to predict their contribution to sea level change," says Sharp.

A lot of global climate models are predicting big changes in the Arctic, adds Arendt. The data collected across the Arctic based on the simplified model will give those "big-picture" investigators more detail for them to refine their models.

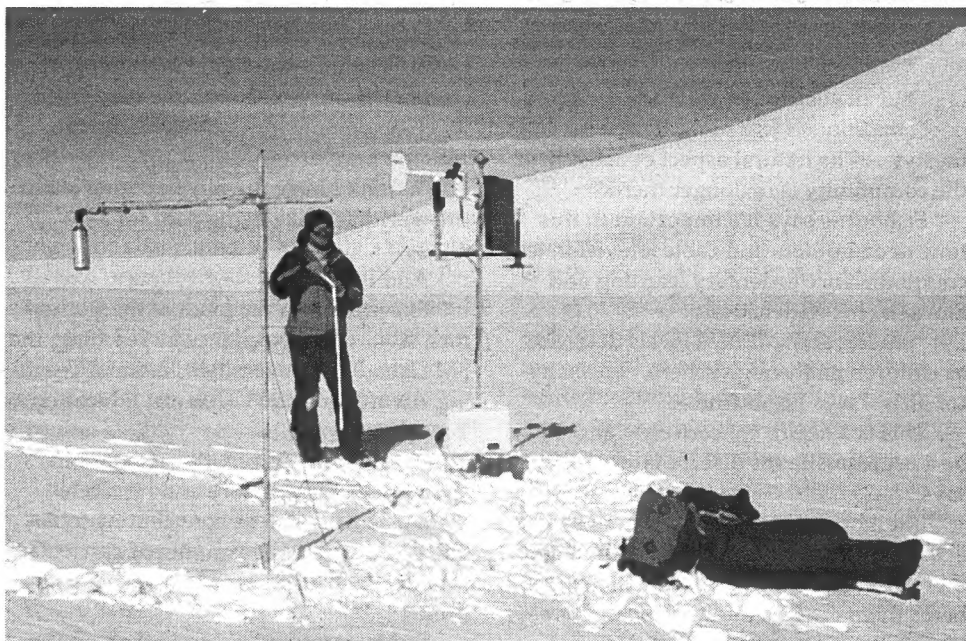
Arendt's work is backed by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canadian Circumpolar Institute and the Atmospheric Environment Service. ■



Top: Solar energy is a major factor during the 24-hour days in the high Arctic in determining glacial melt.

Bottom left: Anthony Arendt has established three data collection stations on John Evans Glacier.

Below: John Evans Glacier: a mass of ice on Ellesmere Island of about 90 square kilometres.



Police investigate threatening drawing

Campus Security is also investigating Space Moose in light of the Code of Student Behaviour

By Michael Robb

Edmonton City Police are investigating a disturbing drawing that appeared on a white board outside the office of Dr. Linda Trimble, political science. The scrawled cartoon depicted a person with a knife threatening another person. Within the attribution balloon is the word "kill."

The message appeared in the wake of the Space Moose controversy during which some female students and professors were outspoken in their opposition to the cartoon, which appeared on a U of A Web site.

Campus Security is investigating whether or not charges under the Code of Student Behaviour should be laid in conjunction with the controversial cartoon.

The university is expected to make an announcement next week.

The Gateway cartoonist Adam Thrasher has been asked to remove the cartoon from the Web.

If charges under the Code are laid, they could fall under the discrimination sub-section of non-academic offences.

The section reads: "Discrimination is any act or omission based on race, religious

beliefs, color, gender, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, age, ancestry, place of origin, family status, source of income, sexual orientation or political belief when that act or omission results in loss of or limit on opportunities to work or to fully participate in campus life or which offends the dignity of the person."

The strip, the third in a series, showed Space Moose and a

sidekick confronting women in a Take Back the Night march. Space Moose opens fire on the women, while the other character plunges a knife in the back of a protestor. A woman with a bulletproof chest then captures the perpetrators and throws them into a cell.

A fourth-year undergraduate student filed a complaint with the university about the cartoonist's strip.

The Space Moose cartoon has generated news and commentary in local and national newspapers, some people arguing the cartoon should be protected by the right to freedom of speech. While others have argued the cartoon is threatening and directs hatred against others. ■

The message appeared in the wake of the Space Moose controversy during which some female students and professors were outspoken in their opposition

Submit talks to Tamie Heisler by 9 a.m. one week prior to publication. Fax 492-2997 or e-mail at publicaffairs@ualberta.ca.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

November 7, noon

Phil Lee, Alberta Research Council, "Assemblage of Plant Communities on DWM in Aspen-Dominated Boreal Forests." M-229 Biological Sciences Centre.

November 12, noon

J. Samuel, "Cancer Immunotherapy."

B-105 Biological Sciences Centre.

November 13, 4 p.m.

Hugh Danks, Biological Survey of Canada, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, "Ranges of Insects from the Yukon and their Beringian History." TB-W1 Tory Breezeway.

November 14, noon

Dominique Berteaux, "When Behavioral Ecology Meets Physiological Ecology: Some Questions About Small Mammals in Winter." M-229 Biological Sciences Centre.

November 14, 3:30 p.m.

Howard Lipshitz, Department of Molecular and Medical Genetics, University of Toronto, "Genetic Control of Morphogenesis in *Drosophila*." G-116 Biological Sciences Centre.

November 19, noon

R. Kaufman, "Saliva, Reproduction and Ecdysine: Some Lessons from Ticks." B-105 Biological Sciences Centre.

November 20, 4 p.m.

Susan Bjornson, "Microsporidia and *Phytoseiulus persimilis*: Natural Disaster for a Natural Enemy." TB-W1 Tory Breezeway.

November 21, noon

Emma Pharo, "Australian Bryophyte and Lichen Diversity: Management and Conservation." M-229 Biological Sciences Centre.

November 21, 3:30 p.m.

Phil Fedorak, "Microbial Metabolism of Sulfur Heterocyclic Compounds Found in Petroleum." M-149 Biological Sciences Centre.

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

November 19, 5:30 p.m.

Rangaraj M. Rangayyan, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Calgary, "Measures of Acutance and Shape for Classification of Breast Tumors" and Martin Mintchev, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Calgary, "Microprocessor Based Control of Gastrointestinal Motility." 231 Civil Electrical Engineering.

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (EDMONTON)

November 17, 7 p.m.

Bishop Victoria Matthews, Anglican Diocese of

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH FOR TEACHER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

November 18, 12:30 p.m.

Jean McNiff, a well-known action researcher in Great Britain and Ireland, will give a seminar discussion. 633 Education South.

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

November 7, 1 p.m.

Connie Varnhagen, Dorothy Steffler, and Patricia Boechler, "What Can We Learn About Cognitive Development by Studying Spelling?" P-218 Biological Sciences Centre.

November 21, 1 p.m.

Phyllis Schneider, "Presentation Effects on Children's Story Retelling." P-218 Biological Sciences Centre.

CHEMICAL AND MATERIALS ENGINEERING

November 13, 3:30 p.m.

Jalel Azaiez, "Flow of Rigid Particles in Viscoelastic Media." 342 Chemical-Mineral Engineering Building.

November 20, 3:30 p.m.

K. Nandakumar, "Numerical Muddling of Multiphase Flows Using the Defective-Confusion Equation." 342 Chemical-Mineral Engineering Building.

COMPUTING SCIENCE

November 14, 3:30 p.m.

Ralph E. Johnson, University of Illinois, "Patterns: Making the Obvious Profound." 112 V-Wing.

November 17, 4 p.m.

Dr Murray Campbell, CS Days Distinguished Alumni Lecture. Dr. Campbell is an IBM research scientist and was involved in the development of Deep Blue, the first computer to defeat the World Chess Champion. TL-11, Tory Building.

ECO-RESEARCH CHAIR IN ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT

November 7, 3 p.m.

Will King, Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, Queen's University, Chlorination By-Products and Cancer Risk." 2F1.04 (Classroom D), Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre.

TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR 1997 PRIOR SERVICE PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS

Revenue Canada's deadline for making contributions towards purchasing prior service for the 1997 tax year is December 31, 1997.

Staff members currently purchasing prior service may wish to make additional payments over and above their regular payroll deductions. Such payments can be made in either of the following ways:

1. request the additional payment be deducted from your December paycheck, or
 2. forward a personal cheque, made payable to the University of Alberta, for the additional payment.
- Staff wishing to make an additional payment may submit their request in

writing, indicating the amount and payment method chosen, to Pay and Benefits, Human Resource Group, 2-40 Assiniboia Hall, not later than December 1, 1997. Personal cheques may be post dated up to and including December 12, 1997. Please supply social insurance number for credit of the additional payment to your 1997 T4.

Pay and Benefits suggests you consult with your tax advisor concerning any steps you should take in 1997 to maximize your 1997 prior service tax deductions. As a matter of policy, Pay and Benefits staff has been instructed not to attempt to provide personal tax advice.

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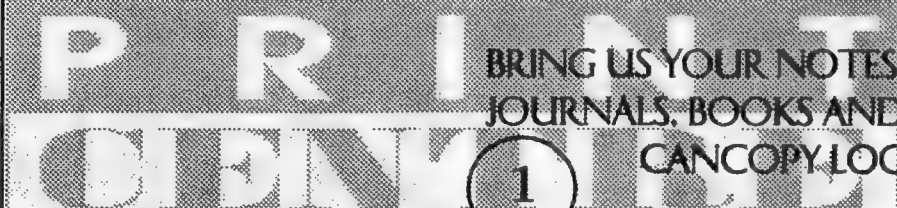
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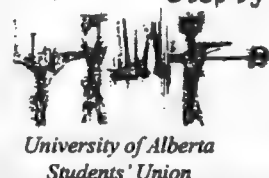


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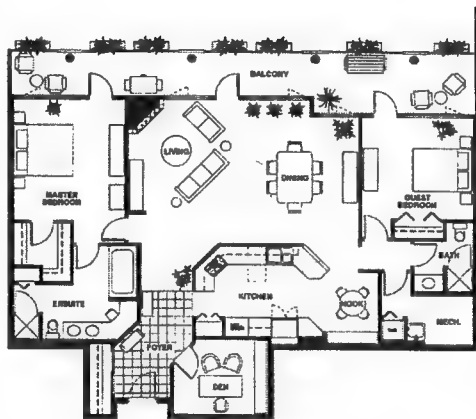
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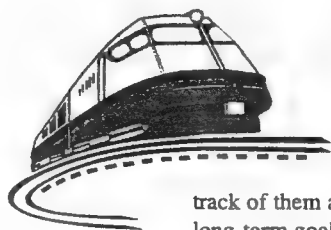
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talks

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FACULTÉ SAINT-JEAN

Jacques Dubois, Université de Liège, spécialiste de renommée internationale dans la littérature française des 19e et 20e siècles, présentera les communications suivantes:

lundi 10 nov. Salle 170, FSJ, 13h30-14h20
"Madame Bovary: symbolique et rhétorique, I"
mercredi 12 nov. Salle 170, FSJ, 13h30-14h20
"Madame Bovary: symbolique et rhétorique, II"
jeudi 13 nov. Salle 328, FSJ, 15h30-16h50
"La Chartreuse de Parme de Stendhal: l'amour fou et la liberté, III"
vendredi 14 nov. Salle 170, FSH, 13h30-14h20
"Madame Bovary: symbolique et rhétorique, III"
lundi 17 nov. Salle 170, FSJ, 13h30-14h20
"Madame Bovary: symbolique et rhétorique, IV"
mardi 18 nov. Salle 170, FSJ, 10h00-11h20
Proust au féminin"
mercredi 19 nov. Salle 170, FSJ, 13h30-14h20
"Madame Bovary: symbolique et rhétorique, V"

FACULTY OF EXTENSION

November 19, 7 p.m.
Gordon Munro, Research and Special Projects Coordinators for Training and Communications Services with AADAC, "Addictions: Signs, Symptoms and Interventions." Call Connie Wildman at 492-5532 or fax 492-1857 to reserve a space.
November 19, 2 p.m.
Andy Russell, popular storyteller and author of 11 books on Alberta life and nature will present a public lecture on the art of storytelling at the Lister Hall banquet room. Admission is free but pre-registration is required. Call 492-1218.

HEALTH LAW INSTITUTE AND THE CENTRE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES

November 14, 10 a.m.
Mary Marshall, Cook Duke Cox, "Health Records: Is It Privacy Rights v. Societal Interests?" McLennan Ross Hall, Room 231/237 Law Centre.

HOPE FOUNDATION

November 10, 7 p.m.
Jennifer Boisvert, 1996/97 Hope Scholar, "The Experience of Hope in a Self-Help Group for Women with Eating Disorders." Hope House, 11032 - 89 Avenue.

HUMAN ECOLOGY

November 13, 1 p.m.
Pam Bailey, "Capturing the Creative Process in Apparel Design Research." 131 Home Economics Building.
November 20, 1 p.m.
Tannis Grant, "Simulating the Removal of Clothing: A Shocking Process." 131 Home Economics Building.

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC ECONOMICS

November 12, 3 p.m.
Paul Boothe, "Paying for ACCESS: Province by Province." 8-22 Tory Building.

ALBERTA TREASURY POLICY WORKSHOP

Nov 20 3:30-5 p.m.
Professor Paul Hobson, Acadia University, "Empowering the Provinces in Funding Social Programs." Room T1-103.

PUBLIC FINANCE WORKSHOP

Nov 21 3-4:30 p.m.
Professor Paul Hobson, Acadia University, "Is There Too Much Revenue Redistribution Through Canada's Fiscal Equalization Program?" Room T8-22.

J.P. DAS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES CENTRE

November 14, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
J.P. Das, and Jack Naglieri, Ohio State University, "Das-Naglieri Cognitive Assessment System." 262 Education South.

MATHEMATICS

November 13, 3:30 p.m.
Roger Nussbaum, Rutgers University, "Differential-delay Equations with State-dependent Time Lags." 657 CAB.

NURSING

November 14, noon
Donna Wilson, "Using APA Format to Grade Student Papers." 6-107 Clinical Sciences Building.

PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

November 13, 3 p.m.
Reza Mehvar, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutics, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Drake University, Iowa, "Computer-Assisted Instruction in a Problem-Based, Objective-Driven Pharmacokinetics Course." 5074 Dentistry-Pharmacy Centre.

events

EXHIBITIONS

BRUCE PEEL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

Until December 1997
"She Wields a Pen: An Exhibition of Women's Literature History." Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (after October 14, extended hours as posted). B7 Rutherford South

CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR NORDIC STUDIES

Until December 24
"Hans Christian Andersen" exhibition. Rutherford South Entrance Hall. The exhibition comes to Edmonton through the generosity of the Royal Danish Embassy.

EXTENSION CENTRE GALLERY

Until January 12
"Noboru Kubo—25 Years in Canada"—an exhibition of works by Faculty of Extension Artists in Residence Noboru Kubo. Gallery hours: Monday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Information: 492-3034. 2-54 University Extension Centre.

FAB GALLERY

Until November 9
"I Sun Kwok Lo" Imperial Legacy—an exhibition of paintings by nephew of the last emperor of China. Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 2 to 5 p.m.; closed Monday, Saturday and statutory holidays. 1-1 Fine Arts Building.

MCMULLEN GALLERY

Until December 31
"Woodworks—Ten Edmonton Sculptors"—an exhibition of sculpture in wood by Ted Trusz, Report Iveson, Bryce Ohneck, Danek Mozdzenski, Tommie Gallie, Darrel Colyer, Larry Andreoff, Michael Mott, Eisert Hall, and Sandra Bromley. Hours: Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.; Thursday, 5 to 8 p.m. Information: 492-8428 or 492-4211. Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre.

MUSIC

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

November 16, 8 p.m.
The University of Alberta Madrigal Singers Concert. Leonard Ratzlaff, conductor. Admission: \$7/adults, \$5/student and senior. Convocation Hall.
November 17, noon
Noon-Hour Organ Recital—featuring Karen Holmes, Professor of Organ at the University of Ottawa and National President of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Convocation Hall.
November 21, 8 p.m.
Music at Convocation Hall with pianist Stéphane Lemelin, featuring works by Schoenberg, Schumann, Forsyth, and Ravel. Admission: \$10/adult, \$5/senior and student. Convocation Hall.

SPORTS

HOCKEY

November 14 and 15, 7:30 p.m.
Bears vs. Lethbridge
November 21 and 22, 7:30 p.m.
Bears vs. Calgary

VOLLEYBALL

November 14, 6:30 p.m.
Pandas vs. Saskatchewan
November 14, 8 p.m.
Bears vs. Saskatchewan
November 15, 6:30 p.m.
Bears vs. Saskatchewan
November 15, 8 p.m.
Pandas vs. Saskatchewan
November 21, 6:30 p.m.

PANDAS VS. SASKATCHEWAN

November 21, 8 p.m.
Bears vs. Manitoba
November 22, 6:30 p.m.
Bears vs. Manitoba
November 22, 8 p.m.
Pandas vs. Manitoba

November 14, 2 p.m.
Reza Mehvar, "Pharmacokinetics of Dextran as Potential Carriers for Organ-Specific Delivery." Bernard Snell Hall.

November 19, noon
Ross Tsuyuki, Associate Professor of Medicine and Pharmacy, "From Clinical Trials to the Bedside: The CQIN Experience in Health Services Research." 2031 Dentistry-Pharmacy Centre.

PHILOSOPHY

November 7, 3:30 p.m.
Stan Godlovitch, Department of Philosophy, Lincoln University, New Zealand, "Morally We Roll Along: Optimistic Reflections on Moral Progress." 4-29 Humanities Centre.
November 14, 3:30 p.m.
John Leslie, Professor of Philosophy, University of Guelph and author of *The End of the World: Science and Ethics of Human Extinction*, "The Domsday Argument." L-3 Humanities Centre.

PHYSICS

November 7, 2 p.m.
Wai Kwok, Materials Science Division, Argonne National Laboratory, "Vortex Lattice Melting and the Effect of Defects in High Temperature Superconductors." V-129 V-Wing.

PHYSIOLOGY

November 7, 3:30 p.m.
Susan Jacobs, "So That's Why Maternal Blood Volume Increases During Pregnancy!" 207 Heritage Medical Research Centre.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

November 18, 7 p.m.
Georges Erasmus, Co-Chair, Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. 2-115 Education North.
November 20, 3:30 p.m.
Judy Garber, "Politics, Public Space, and the Postmodern Vision of the city." 10-4 Tory Building.

PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES

November 12, noon
Suzanne Ho, Chinese University of Hong Kong, "Osteoporosis Research: Peak Bone Mass and its Attainment." 2F1.04 Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre.

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

November 13, 12:30 p.m.
Peter Dzikowski, Weather Resource Specialist, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, "Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture and Air Quality Issues in Alberta." 2-36 Earth Sciences Building.

RURAL ECONOMY AND THE CANADIAN FOREST SERVICE

November 21, 2 p.m.
Atif Kubursi, Professor of Economics, McMaster University and President of Econometric Research Ltd. and Asghedom Ghebremichael, Leader, Forest Sector Research Program, Canadian Forest Service, Northern Forestry Centre, "Approaches to Quantifying Contributions of the Forest Sector in Fostering Sustainable Development in Canada's Rural Economies." 550 General Services Building.

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

November 9, 8 p.m.
Denis Lamoureux, BSc, DDS, Mdiv, MCS, PhD (Inter-disciplinary Theology: Science and Religion), PhD (Oral Biology: Dental Development and Evolution), "Beyond the Evolution vs. Creation Debate." Newman Centre, St. Joseph's College.

TRANSALTA ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND STUDIES CENTRE

November 13, 4:30 p.m.
Anne Naeth, "Environmental Restoration: Can We Reclaim What We Have Disturbed?" Alumni Room, Main Floor, Students' Union Building.
November 20, 4:30 p.m.
David Schindler, "Effects of Climate Warming, Ultra Violet Radiation and Acid Deposition on the Boreal Region." Alumni Room, Main Floor, Student's Union Building.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING SERVICES

November 12, 3 p.m.
Anne Naeth, "Leading Discussions." TB-W2 Tory Breezeway.
November 13, 3:30 p.m.
Jetska Sybesma, "Charting New Interdisciplinary Territory Through Team Teaching." 219 CAB.
November 17, 4 p.m.
Robert de Frece, "Creating a Positive Classroom Climate." 475 Education South.
November 18, 3:30 p.m.
Andrew Gow, Philip Mees, Marise Parent, "I'm New and I'm Unsure About... I'd Like to Talk with Other New Professors." 219 CAB.
November 19, 3 p.m.
Marg Iveson, "Portfolios for Teaching, Learning, and Jobs: Representing Work and Self." TB-W2 Tory Breezeway.
November 20, 3:30 p.m.
Anil Walji, "Teaching Doctors a Better Bedside Manner: Anatomy of a New Curriculum." TB-W2 Tory Breezeway.

WESTERN CANADIAN CENTRE OF SPECIALIZATION IN DEAFNESS

November 7, 7 p.m.
Elaine Kramar Lecture in Communication Disorders. Julie Purdy, Portland State University, "You Are Able." 2-115 Education North.

laurels

BOOKSTORE WINS THE WEST

The U of A Bookstore was named "Store of the Year" for a rare second year running at the Western Canadian College Stores Association annual meeting. Votes for the award are cast by book publishers across the country who recognized the U of A Bookstore for all around efficiency and outstanding work preparing for and accommodating the rush of student buyers in September.

U OF A PRESS FINALIST FOR BOOK PRIZE

Propaganda and Censorship during Canada's Great War, by Jeffrey Keshen and published by University of Alberta Press is a finalist for the Harold Adams Innis Book Prize. The \$1,000 prize is awarded by the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada in recognition of excellence in research and writing in the humanities and social sciences. Winners will be announced at the end of November.

U OF A RECEIVES ASTECH ACCOLADES

The U of A received a number of ASTech awards at the recent ceremony in Calgary. The Outstanding Science award went to Dr. Timothy Mosmann, medical microbiology and immunology. The Outstanding Technology award went to Dr.

Tony Noujaim, professor emeritus, pharmacy (with M. Moloney of U of C). Dr. Murray Gray, dean graduate studies and research, received the Syncrude Prize while AltaRex, a U of A spinoff company took the NRC/ASTech (North) prize. The Faculty of Engineering was also recognized for its Discovery E Science camps. Over 1,030 people attended the awards banquet.

TARDIF TAKES THE PRIX MAURICE-LAVALLÉE

Faculté Saint-Jean Dean Claudette Tardif has been awarded the Prix Maurice-Lavallée for her work associated with the promotion and creation of francophone educational institutions in Alberta. The award was presented to the dean recently by the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta.

GREEN HONORED INTERNATIONAL LAW WORK

Professor L.C. Green, professor emeritus, has been awarded the John Read Medal in International Law by the Canadian Council in International Law for his service to the field in Canada. Professor Green is serving his second term as Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Law at the U.S. Naval War College.

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FACULTY POSITIONS

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Applications are invited for two full-time tenure track positions in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Alberta. The department is located in renovated facilities within the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine and offers two degrees: an entry-level BSc degree in physical therapy, and a MSc degree in physical therapy. The department also participates fully in an interdisciplinary PhD degree program in rehabilitation science.

Qualified candidates should hold a doctoral degree and have a proven record of scholarly activity in teaching and research. Candidates should have a well-defined research agenda. Areas of particular interest include clinical research in adult neurological disorders, geriatrics/aging, pain management, therapeutic exercise, and ergonomics/industrial physical therapy. Our faculty teach in both the entry-level and graduate programs in areas of their expertise and interest.

Faculty members in the department have active research affiliations with the Perinatal Research Centre, the Gerontology Centre, the Rick Hansen Centre (studies of spinal cord injured athletes), the Division of Neuroscience, the Glen Sather Sports Medicine Clinic, and the Health Care Quality Outcomes Research Centre. Within the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, the Centre for the Study of Clinical Education conducts research and training workshops related to clinical supervision, and the Rehabilitation Research Centre is a focal point for multi-disciplinary research. Close working relationships exist with the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital and other community-based programs in physical therapy. This provides a dynamic, rich environment for physical therapy education, research and clinical opportunities. The department is also actively engaged in international education, service and research programs.

Rank and salary will be commensurate with qualifications at the assistant professor (\$39,490 to \$55,882 p.a.) or associate professor level (\$49,052 to \$70,124 p.a.). The positions are available July 1, 1998.

Closing date for applications is January 31, 1998; however, applications will be accepted until positions are filled. Send curriculum vitae and names of three references to:

Dr. Albert Cook, dean
Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
3-48 Corbett Hall
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G4
Phone: 403-492-5991
Fax: 403-492-1626

DEAN

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

The University of Alberta invites applications and nominations for the position of Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. The faculty administers 62 master's and 53 doctoral programs distributed across 62 academic units. Current graduate student enrolment is approximately 4,250. The dean is the chief executive of the faculty and chairs the Faculty Council, which recommends and reviews policy for the faculty and its component units. In addition, the dean oversees the faculty office, which provides extensive student services and monitors all aspects of graduate programs. As a senior member of university administration, the dean represents the faculty across the university and to the outside community. The dean reports to the vice-president (academic) and is responsible for leadership of the faculty. A position description is available on request.

Candidates should have a demonstrated capacity for leadership, strong academic qualities, and proven administrative ability. The appointment will take effect July 1, 1998 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Written nominations for the position, or applications supported by a curriculum vitae and the names of three referees, should be submitted by January 15, 1998 to

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GRADUATE STUDIES REVIEW

A Review of Graduate Programs and Research of the FGSR will take place Thursday, November 13 and Friday, November 14, 1997. All members of the University community are invited to meet with the external review team (Dr Maria Klawe, Vice-President, Student and Academic Services, UBC; Dr R Craig Brown, Department of History, U of Toronto; Dr W Todd Rogers, Educational Psychology, U of A; Mr Barry Posner, Vice-President (Academic) Graduate Students' Association, U of A).

Those interested in meeting with the review team are invited to coffee from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Friday, November 14, at Alumni House.

MCCALLA PROFESSORSHIPS: SMALL FACULTIES

Applications are invited from continuing faculty members from the Faculties of Extension, Law, Nursing, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Physical Education and Recreation, Rehabilitation Medicine, Faculté Saint-Jean, School of Native Studies, or Interdisciplinary Research Units.

These prestigious awards provide full-time teaching relief for the period September to April to enable recipients to pursue a research project in Edmonton.

Application information is available from deans' offices. Applications must be received by the associate vice-president (academic) by December 1, 1997.

BRIAN McDONALD RECEPTION

Friends and colleagues are invited to attend a retirement reception honoring Brian McDonald, Associate Vice-President (Academic Administration), whose career has spanned over 36 years. The reception in celebration of his career will be held on Thursday, December 11, 1997, from 3:30 to 6 p.m., at Alumni House.

Contributions for a gift may be sent, by December 1, 1997, to the Office of the Vice-President (Academic), 3rd Floor, University Hall, attention Sydney (phone 492-3342).

HEALTH SCIENCES CAREER FAIR

A Health Sciences Career Fair will be held Thursday, November 20, 1997, 1:30 to 7 p.m., Dinwoodie Lounge, 2-100 Student's Union Building.

PHARMACY RESEARCH DAY

The Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences are holding their Ninth Annual Pharmacy Research Day Friday, November 14 in the Bernard Snell Hall. The day opens at 9 a.m. and features a keynote address by Dr. G. Dionne, executive vice-president (research and development), Biochem Pharma Inc.. Other speakers include Dr. J. Poston, director of research and practice development for the Canadian Pharmacists Association, Dr. R. Mehvar, associate professor, College of Pharmacy, Drake University and Dr. Norm Dovichi, professor of chemistry,

U of A. Sponsors for the one-day event are Hoffman-La Roche and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research.

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FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN MEET

The Canadian Federation of University Women (Edmonton) will be holding its monthly meeting Monday, November 17, 1997, 7 p.m. in the Faculty Club, University of Alberta campus. The guest speakers will be Bishop Victoria Matthews, Anglican Diocese of Edmonton and Rabbi Lindsey bat Joseph, Temple Beth Ora, Edmonton. Their topic will be "Feminine Face of God." All university women graduates are welcome. For more information, call 430-5383.

UNDERGRADUATE NURSING CONFERENCE

The Nursing Undergraduate Association at the U of A is hosting the annual Western Regional Canadian Nursing Student (CNSA) Conference from November 20-23. Guests from across Canada and the northwestern United States will be present. The conference, "BSc and Beyond," will focus on an interdisciplinary team approach in planning patient care in hospital and community settings.

COMPUTING SCIENCE DAYS

The Department of Computing Science will be showcasing students, staff, programs and research at the Eighth Annual Computing Science Days November 17-19. The events include several public lectures including the Distinguished Alumni Lecture by Dr. Murray Campbell, an IBM research scientist very involved in the development of Deep Blue, the first computer to defeat the World Chess Champion. The lecture will be held Monday, November 17, 4 p.m., TL-11 Tory Building. The Department will also be hosting research laboratory tours. To register, use the WWW form or contact Janet Service by fax at 492-1071 or e-mail: janet@cs.ualberta.ca.

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY DISCRETIONARY FUND

The deadline for applications for the next round of competition for the Employment Equity Discretionary Fund has been extended to January 23, 1997. The fund provides seed money for creative employment equity, educational equity and diversity projects on campus. For more information, contact the Office of Human Rights at #7325.

UPCOMING COMPUTER COURSES

Basic Computer Skills and Applications

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Nov. 14 12-2 Cameron lab

Using Pro-Cite to Organize Files and Bibliographies and Creating Bibliographic Databases with BookWhere
Nov. 19 9-11 ATL Studio

Information Searching

Advanced Health Database Searching
Nov. 17 9-10:30 WMC 2F1.02

Advanced Internet Searching
Nov. 14 9-11 Cameron lab

Searching Current Contents & Other ERL Databases via the Web
Nov. 18 3-4:30 Cameron lab

Courseware Design and Development

Digital Photography:
Using a Digital Camera
Nov. 12 11-12 ATL Studio

Authorware Part 1-Basics
Nov. 17 2-4 Ed North 3-106

Authorware Part 2
Nov. 18 2-4 Ed North 3-106

Authorware Part 3
Nov. 19 2-4 Ed North 3-106

Authorware Part 4
Nov. 20 2-4 Ed North 3-106

Image Scanning
Nov. 19 12-1 ATL Studio

Instructional Design Tools
Nov. 13 12-1 ATL Studio

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The Importance of Spelling Correctly

By Deborah Johnston

Vice President Dan Quayle may never live down that fateful spelling bee. While a guest judge at an elementary school competition, he suggested a student change the correct spelling of "potato" to "potatoe." And in the media blitz that followed, Quayle was ridiculed over and over—in television and newspaper stories, even in a Web site dedicated to "Dan Quayle's Problems With Spelling." In the annals of U.S. history, it seems Dan Quayle will be remembered more for his poor spelling than for his political platform.

"If you don't spell right," says Dr. Connie Varnhagen, associate professor of psychology, "You can't communicate. Poor spellers get this bad rap that they're dumb. [It's true that] people with intellectual disabilities have poor spelling but that doesn't mean poor spellers necessarily have an intellectual disability."

"Add one little bit on

the end... think of

'potato,' how's it spelled?

You're right phonetically,

but what else...?

There ya go... all right!"

Former U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle changing a student's correct spelling of "potato" to "potatoe" during an elementary school spelling bee.

I always do. I have a negative impression of that candidate. I think it says they're careless."

It could be just carelessness, says Varnhagen, or it could say a lot more about the writer. A developmental psychologist and self-confessed 'miserable speller,' she has a personal and professional interest in the mechanics of spelling. "Spelling is a wonderful mirror on children's cognitive development."

Cognitive development, she says, refers to how thought processes change over time. In studies of elementary school children's spelling, Varnhagen and her lab group, including Dorothy Steffler, Patricia Boechler, Chris Friesen, Dean Taylor, Geniva Liu, and Jane Tram, observed how children go "from not knowing anything to knowing a lot. Some of the issues we are looking at is how do

they develop automaticity—where it comes without thinking about it—and in spelling how do they go from the slow effortful sounding out of words kkkkkk—aaaaa—ttttt—to just spelling 'cat'."

They do it, research shows, by developing multiple strategies to problem solving.

During a study conducted by Varnhagen and Boechler, children between Grades 1 through 6 were shown three cards with different spellings of the same word, for example: peachs, peeches, peechez. By asking the children "which word looks right?" the researcher can

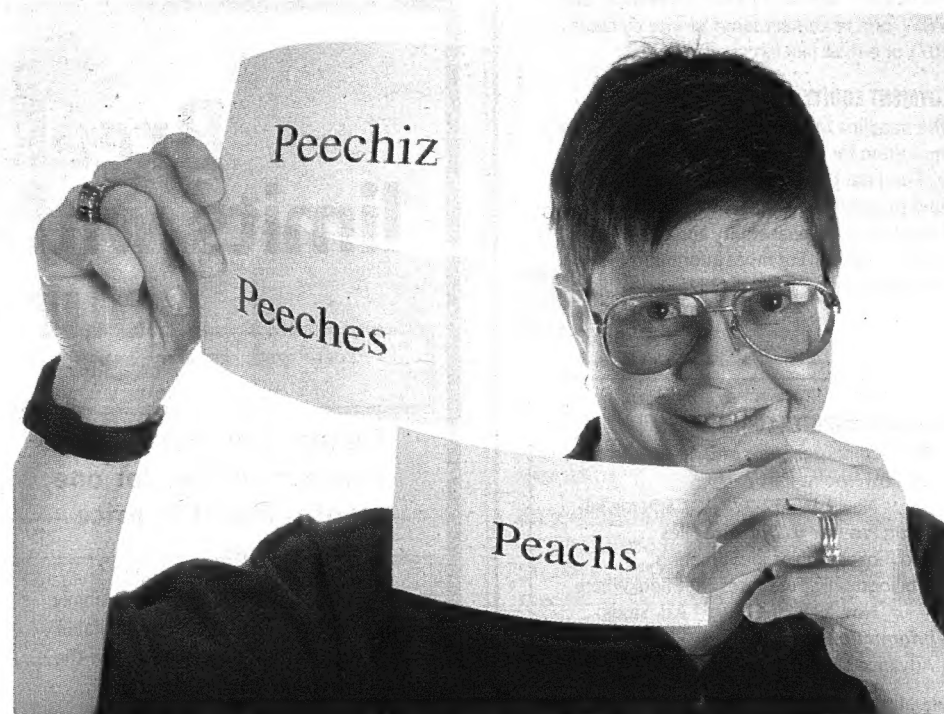
determine what information children are using to spell different types of words.

Research conducted by Varnhagen and her students has implications for teachers: it's not enough to just administer spelling tests. "That only tells you whether they can spell the word right or wrong," Varnhagen says, "It doesn't tell you anything about what strategies they are using when they are spelling." Teachers, then, should ask students how they spell words, rather than draw inferences

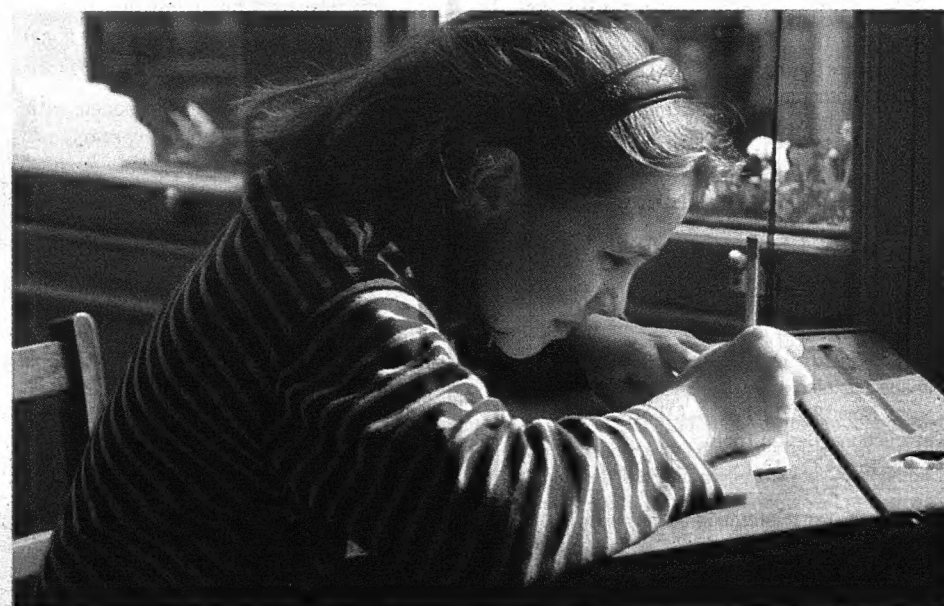
from spelling errors. The children's strategies, Varnhagen says, provide valuable insight into their thought processes. For example, a child who spells "cake" as "cak" may have been taught the silent e rule, but not that it applies to long vowels. In this case, the child thinks the "a" says its own name, so there's no need for the "e" on the end.

Varnhagen says the goal of this research is to advance theories of cognitive development and to create more appropriate educational materials for children. Ultimately, she believes that helping children to use multiple problem-solving strategies will prepare them for all of life's challenges.

"Knowing to double a letter isn't going to help you tie your shoes, but knowing the strategic approach to tying your shoes is important," she says. "The notion of a strategy seems to be important for all cognitive development, for all of problem solving, for all of cognitive behavior. And multiple strategies are better than one strategy. That should generalize throughout education and life." ■



Dr. Connie Varnhagen



What makes a good speller?

Good spelling, according to Dr. Connie Varnhagen, is proof of advanced cognitive development. A good speller has developed multiple strategies to problem solving and typically demonstrates one or more of the following cognitive skills:

- **Phonological differentiation**—You have to be able to hear the subtle differences in word sounds. "ph" can sound a lot like "th" because they are both formed at the same part of the mouth.
- **Orthographic recognition**—Orthography refers to the way letters are put together. There are specific rules for letter combinations. You never see a "k" and an "x" together.
- **Morphologic recognition**—Morphemes are the smallest word units that actually have meaning—for example, "ea" sounds like "ee." If you can break words down into parts, you're more likely to spell them correctly.
- **A positive attitude.** Sometimes believing you can do it is all it takes.

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